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GUN WORLD

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LORI SIEBERTS

## Priceless: Gifts and Knowledge

**W**e're now into the early weeks of 2015. As I wrote this, it was three days before Christmas, and the packages under the tree were starting to pile up. In short order, families would get together and exchange gifts. I knew I would probably get a new accessory for my gunsmithing workbench, reloading bench or my ever-expanding range bag.

Throughout the years, shooters, hunters and collectors across the country have all experienced the same scene, and that reminds me of the Christmas when I received my first 22 rifle and the times my dad took me to the range with it.

For readers of *Concealed Carry Handguns* magazine, you may have received a new firearm or holster, or some other accessory—and there aren't a whole lot of better things than going to the range with a new item. If you didn't receive that special something you were hoping Santa would bring you, we've got plenty of shooting-related items to entice you to spend your hard earned dollars.

Every issue of *Concealed Carry Handguns* magazine strives to offer you, the shooter, the best choices in guns, ammo, holsters and gear, along with information from whom we feel are the most knowledgeable writers in the industry, to help you make the best decision for your shooting needs.

Enjoy your time on the range.

Regards,

Steve Sieberts  
Editor

*Steve Sieberts has over 40 years in the firearms field, including 17 years as a professional gunsmith and 10 years as a Chief Gunsmith for a classified DoD facility. He has been writing about firearms for many publications for over 20 years.*

# CONCEALED CARRY HANDGUNS

SPRING 2015

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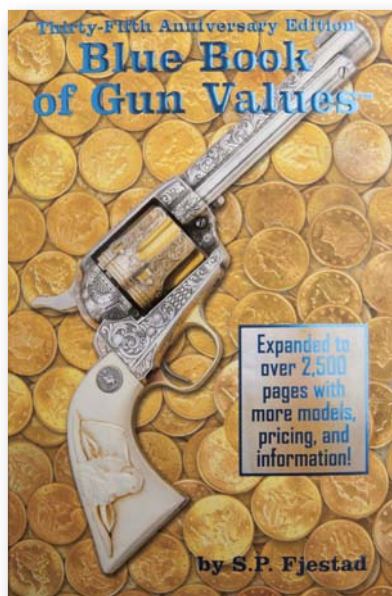


# 10 ROUNDS

This section is where *Concealed Carry Handguns Magazine* highlights the products and gear that help make a good shooter even better, by bringing you books, DVD's, shooting schools and more. There is always something new to learn in the field of firearms, and with the different media available

through books and DVD's, getting the information is easy and fast. We've found some great reference material here that should be on every shooter's bookshelf. We will also try to highlight some shooting schools in this section from across the country so that if you can increase your shooting knowledge and skills even more.

## [BOOKS]



### *Blue Book of Gun Values*

**MSRP:** \$49.99

**PUBLISHER:** Bluebook Publication

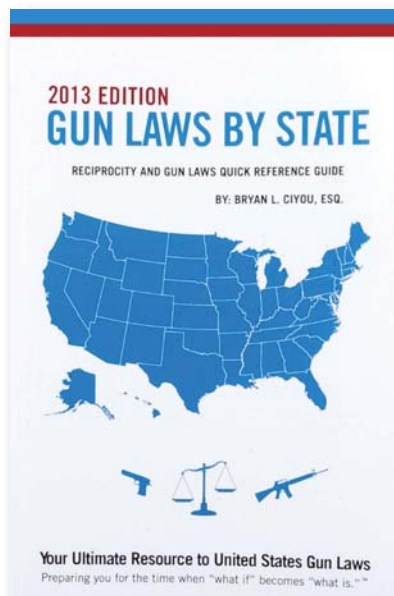
**PAGES:** 2500 pages

**WEB:** BlueBookInc.com

Want to know how much dad's old revolver is worth, or if that shiny new pistol in the gun case at the local gunshop is really worth what they are asking?

Check out the 35th anniversary edition of the "Blue Book of Gun Values."

This updated version has values for modern firearms as well as antiques. The BBOGV has the most up-to-date information available on domestic and imported firearms values. It also has a unique Grading System which uses photographs to help identify a firearms condition. The website also features a new mobile app that gives the shooter and collector instant access to virtually any firearms values. Not only does the BBOGV have prices, it also has helpful specifications which aid in the gun-buying decision-making process.



### *Gun Laws By State*

**MSRP:** \$4.95

**PUBLISHER:** Peritus Holdings

**WEB:** Brownells.com

Ignorance of the law is no excuse and this book will help keep you in the know.

Written by a well-known firearms attorney, "Gun Laws By State" can help when deciding whether you are potentially violating one of the over 20,000 firearms laws currently on the books in the U.S.

Gun laws vary wildly from state to state, and having the correct information at hand can save untold hours of frustration, not to mention possible legal action if you get it wrong. This book continues to be published annually and has an interactive website with current information.

## [SHOOTING SCHOOLS]



### ***Gunsite Academy***

#### **ADDRESS:**

2900 W. Gunsite Rd.  
Paulden, AZ 86334

**PHONE:** 928-636-4565

**FAX:** 928-636-1236

**WEB:** GunSite.com

It is one of the oldest, but it's still one of the best.

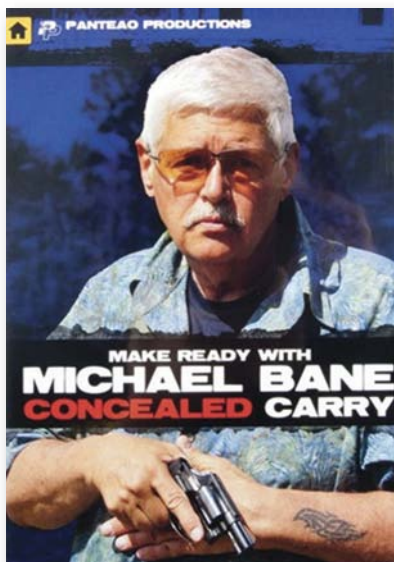
Founded in 1976 by the father of the modern technique of the defensive pistol, Col. Jeff Cooper, who revolutionized the art and science of combat pistolcraft, the Gunsite Academy is located in Paulden, Arizona. Cooper passed away in 2006, but the 2,000-acre facility still carries on the great tradition of combat pistol shooting.

The facility also offers professional instruction

in combat shotgun, carbine, and rifle courses with KD and unknown distance ranges. To quote their website, "Most of the target arrays move, turn, run, pop-up or appear and disappear."

They also have full gunsmithing services, along with campground facilities.

Their instructors are some of the best in the business, and they have tremendous knowledge, professionalism, and dedication to the art and craft of defensive and offensive use of firearms.



## [DVDS]

### ***Make Ready with Michael Bane: Concealed Carry***

**MSRP:** \$39.99

**PUBLISHER:** Panteao Productions

**WEB:** Panteao.com

And you thought only Hollywood produced good movies.

The "Make Ready" series from Panteao Publications is an informative set of DVDs that cover a wide variety of topics pertaining to rifles, handguns and their use. The trainer is Michael Bane, who was instrumental in developing and helping to launch both the IPSC and IDPA. He also worked in the creation of the National Range Officer's Institute.

The "Concealed Carry" DVD walks the viewer through all aspects of concealed carry, from off-body carry, through vehicular carry techniques and the full gamut of firearm types and selection of the right holster.

The DVD covers areas such as home carry and various range drills, which are critical. It's one thing to watch a DVD, but it's important to have a takeaway from the learning activity that a shooter can actually take to the range and use to reinforce the information. **CC**



# CARRY WITH CONFIDENCE

*Accuracy and Reliability Are Topnotch  
With the Kahr CT380*

BY STEVE SIEBERTS

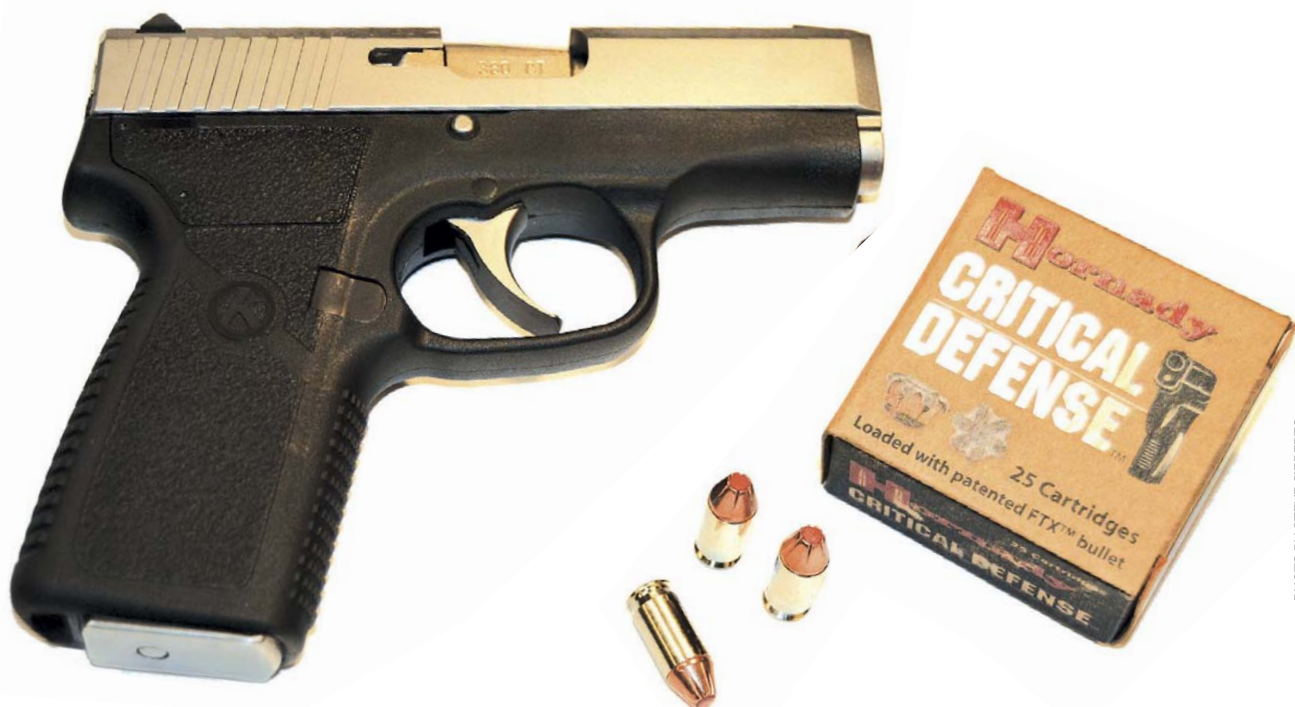


PHOTO BY STEVE SIEBERTS

**T**alk about first impressions. I first became aware of the Kahr brand when I attended the SHOT Show in the early 1990s. I was impressed by the concept and execution of the pistol because it featured a slim design, making it ideal for its intended use, concealed carry. It was double action only and chambered in cartridges meant for business; I knew that this was a pistol that was going to garner a lot of shooters' attention at the show.

Since then I've had the opportunity to shoot many different models over the years. As you might expect, when I had the opportunity to review the new CT380 for this magazine, I jumped at the chance.

## FIRST LOOK

The CT380 I received for this article has the polymer frame, along with a matte stainless steel slide. This two-tone look is very old-school and is one of

my favorite styles. The pistol comes with one, seven-round magazine, making this compact pistol capable of holding eight rounds in a very small package.

The CT380 is a double action only, (DAO) design, meaning the pistol's trigger cocks and fires the striker with the same longish double-action stroke from shot to shot. This has advantages on two counts: The trigger has the same weight of pull from shot to shot, unlike other DA/SA pistols that have a long, heavy stroke on the first shot and, then short, light, crisp trigger pull weights on subsequent follow-up shots. Some people don't like this, as they have to master two very different trigger modes when firing a single string of shots. Having the same weight of pull for the trigger from shot to shot like the Kahr is a huge advantage from a training standpoint. The trigger pull weight on my sample gun was a shade over 5 pounds on my electronic scale.



The Kahr, with the Hornady ammo shot very good 5-shot groups from 10 yards.

*“ I found the Kahr to be very comfortable to shoot, and easy to recover for fast follow up shots ... ”*

The second advantage to the DAO design is from a safety standpoint. Having a pistol with a trigger that has a long DA stroke means that the shooter and pistol are less likely to be involved in a negligent discharge, because it takes a longer, heavier and more deliberate pull on the trigger to discharge the weapon.

The gun has an overall length of 5.5 inches, a height of 4.4 inches, is very slim at 0.75 inches wide with a 3-inch barrel length and a weight of 11.4 oz. without the magazine. The gun utilizes a locked breech design, which means that the barrel and slide are locked together at the moment of firing and recoil, still locked together, for a very short period of time until the pressure drops to a safe level and the bullet has exited the barrel. Then the barrel drops out of the way and the slide continues to the rear. The gun also has a passive striker block and no

magazine disconnect, which means the pistol can be fired without the magazine.

The polymer frame has a nice, textured finish on the left and right side grip panels, with molded-in checkering pattern on the front and backstrap. The grip angle is correct for natural pointing characteristics, and the magazine release and slide release are easy to reach and manipulate, even with gloves on. The sights are snag-free and have the effective, bar-dot configuration.

The entire pistol has edges that are smooth and fairly snag-free, but I would like to see the edges around the ejection port smoothed out a bit. If the gun has a smokestack malfunction and I have to wipe out the jammed empty case, the ejection port has some sharp edges that I think need to be radiused a little more. The trigger guard has a large opening that's easy to get even gloved fingers into



The Kahr was very easy to get good groups with and to control when firing two-shot drills.



The Kahr was very easy to control and pointed well.



The Kahr had a nicely beveled magazine well for smooth and easy reloads.



The trigger was easy to manipulate, and the trigger guard area had plenty of room for the long trigger stroke, even with gloves.

and makes the trigger simple to manipulate through the longer trigger travel distance.

Also, if the gun is carried by a left-handed person on the left side of the body, the ejection port will be against the body and could be uncomfortable if worn for long periods. I'm not left-handed, so I haven't experienced this, but a little more rounding of the sharp edges would be quick and simple.

Disassembly and reassembly for cleaning and simple maintenance are extremely easy and take about 10 seconds with no tools needed. To disassemble the pistol, remove the magazine and check the chamber to ensure the pistol is unloaded. Retract the slide until the disassembly notch on the left side of the slide lines up with the corresponding mark on

the frame. Push out the slide stop from the right side of the gun. Pull the trigger and remove the slide by sliding it forward and off the frame. The dual recoil spring is not of the captive style, so be careful when removing the recoil spring as the spring is under a fair amount of pressure. Remove the recoil spring and lift the barrel up and out of the gun. That's as far as it needs to be taken down for cleaning. Reassemble in reverse order.

## RANGE TIME

The .380 ACP ammunition has come a long way in terms of both power and bullet design. Gone are the days when the only offering was an anemic FMJ at 800 fps. Today, all of the major ammunition and



The Kahr CT380, when paired with the Hornady Critical Defense ammunition turned in excellent 5-shot groups.



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The Hornady ammo delivered very consistent results over the Oehler 35P chronograph.



The Kahr has a good texturing on the sides of the grip panels, and molded-in checkering on the front and backstrap.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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www.bgslinc.com

### HORNADY MANUFACTURING COMPANY

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3625 West Old Potash Hwy  
Grand Island, NE 68803

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## PERFORMANCE RESULTS

LOAD	WEIGHT	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
<b>HORNADY CRITICAL DEFENSE</b>	90 FTX	987	1.3
<b>FIOCCHI</b>	90 FMJ	896	N/A

Notes: Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity is average of 10 shots in fps measured 10 feet from muzzle, and accuracy in inches for the best five-shot group at 100 yards.

*“ ... and the magazine release and slide release are easy to reach and manipulate, even with gloves on. ”*

bullet manufacturers offer superbly performing ammunition at velocities that ensure excellent and reliable expansion and good penetration at normal gunfighting distances.

I chose two offerings for the little 380. The Hornady Critical Defense has been around for a long time and for good reason. The bullet performs well and has proven itself over the years and an excellent choice for use in the type of small, backup guns for which this round is normally chambered. I had some left over from a previous shoot and had excellent results, so I decided to use it again. I also brought out some Fiocchi 80 grain FMJ for function testing as a control round to see if I could induce a malfunction.

As always, I first set up the Oehler 35P chrono-

graph in order to get some velocity readings so I can establish a baseline.

The Fiocchi ammunition turned in a velocity reading of 893 fps, with a standard deviation of 29 fps. I shot five, three-shot strings and the Fiocchi delivered very consistent results. I shot all 50 rounds through the gun without a hitch, and would recommend this FMJ round for serious practice or for competition use, for example, in a BUG (BackUp Gun) category at an IDPA match.

The next round tested was the Hornady 90 grain Critical Defense load. The factory lists this round as delivering 1,000 fps with 200 ft/lbs of muzzle thump from a 4-inch barrel. This cartridge uses the Hornady FTX bullet coupled with low-flash powder to protect the shooter's vision in low-light situations. The





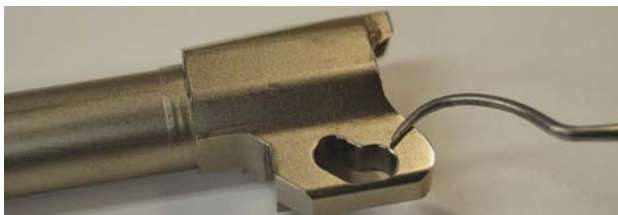
The Kahr breaks down into basic components for easy cleaning.



The feed ramp on the barrel is highly polished for smooth feeding with virtually any type of cartridge.



Disassembly of the Kahr is easy, just line up the notches on the slide and frame and push out the slide stop.



The Kahr uses a short recoil operation, where the barrel and slide are locked together for a short time until the barrel unlocks from the slide, via the camming surface on the barrel underlug.

cartridge's cases are nickel-plated and are great for reloading. My velocity results were very close to the factory stats, as the little 90-grain bullet clocked in through the skyscreens at 987 fps, with a standard deviation of 27 fps from the Kahr's 3-inch barrel.

After the velocity testing was out of the way, I ran the gun through some two-shot drills, at various yardages that the pistol would typically be expected to be used at; 3, 5, and 7 yards two-shot drills were the norm. I found the Kahr to be very comfortable to shoot, and easy to recover for fast follow-up shots, even with the longish DAO trigger pull.


I ended the day at the range by testing the gun's accuracy potential. I shot several five-shot groups offhand at 12 yards, with the best of them coming in at a little over 1.25 inches. This was great accuracy for

Even without a holster, firing from the low-ready position is a good drill to practice with a backup gun like the Kahr.



a gun of this size, especially when you consider that the usual range of an armed confrontation is usually measured in feet and not yards.

### SOLID CHOICE

All in all, the gun was accurate, reliable and fun to shoot. Pair it up with a good inside-the-waistband (IWB) holster and load it with some of the excellent, defensive ammunition available today, and a person could carry this with confidence. 

*In addition to being an Army small arms tech and NCOIC of the small arms repair facility for the 82nd Airborne Division for 3 1/2 years, Steve Sieberts was a shooter/coach with the Army Marksmanship Unit's Pistol Team for four seasons and is an NRA Class C Shooting coach.*



# MUST-HAVE GEAR

## THE RIGHT ACCESSORY MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

**B**uying gear for a newly acquired firearm is sometimes as much fun as taking the new gun out and shooting it. Everything is available, from tactical lights, lasers, holsters and reloading equipment, to shooting equipment like electronic ear muffs and state-of-the-art shooting glasses.

Accessories make good guns even better by enhancing their “shootability” and making shooting more comfortable, or more accurate and reliable, which translates into being able to shoot for longer periods of time. Finding good accessories makes us all better shooters. The accessory market is huge and only going to get bigger and better. Check out the awesome accessories we’ve put together for you. We’re sure you’ll find just the right piece of equipment.



### PELTOR

**MODEL:** 3M Peltor Tactical 6-S

**WEBSITE:** Shop3M.com

**MSRP:** \$117

**FUNCTION:** Noise cancelling headset

**FEATURES:** This noise-cancelling headset (reduces hazardous impulse noises from firearms to harmless levels within 5 milliseconds) also allows normal conversation. Plus, it has an input for radios and cellphones, and the foldable design is perfect for portability.



### CRIMSON TRACE

**MODEL:** CMR-205 (red) and CMR-204 (green)

**WEBSITE:** CrimsonTrace.com

**MSRP:** \$229

**FEATURES:** After a shaky launch, Remington's new R51 pistol has returned to gun store shelves. In some retailers, buyers have the choice of purchasing an R51 with a Crimson Trace Laserguard laser sight pre-installed.

The innovative LG-494 — with a red laser diode — is the result of Crimson Trace and Remington working together during the handgun's development stage.



### WILEY X

**MODEL:** Twisted Ballistic Eyewear

**WEBSITE:** Wileyx.com

**MSRP:** \$80

**FUNCTION:** Ballistic shooting glasses

**FEATURES:** Includes leash cord and case, with a comfortable fit. Great design and made to mil-spec standards. Exceeds ANSI Z87.1-2003+ SAFETY standards. This is from their Black Ops collection.



## BURRIS

**MODEL:** Fast Fire III

**WEBSITE:** BurrisOptics.com

**MSRP:** \$372

**FUNCTION:** Red dot sight

**FEATURES:** This reflex sight fits several models of concealable handguns, including the Springfield XD, Glock, Sig and S&W M&P series. The 3 or 8MOA dot provides very fast target acquisition. Battery-powered with fast and accurate windage and elevation adjustments.

## STREAMLIGHT INC.

**MODEL:** Stylus Pro USB

**WEBSITE:** Streamlight.com

**MSRP:** \$80-100 (depending on configuration)

**FUNCTION:** Tactical light

**FEATURES:** This light delivers 70 lumens of white light, which is a shade over 6-inches long. It's easily recharged via a USB port up to 300 times before the battery needs to be replaced. (Or, charge with AC wall adapter.)



## SUREFIRE

**MODEL:** X300 ULTRA

Tactical Light - TAN

**WEBSITE:** SureFire.com

**MSRP:** \$299

**FUNCTION:** Tactical light

**FEATURES:** The X300 ULTRA in tan coloring delivers 500 lumens of light. It can be purchased with optional DG remote switch, and it can be equipped for rail-less firearms by using the SureFire MR adapter. It has a tactical runtime of 1.5 hours, and it is also available in black.





## OTIS CLEANING SYSTEM

**MODEL:** Deluxe Law Enforcement System

**WEBSITE:** OtisGun.com

**MSRP:** \$70

**FUNCTION:** Pistol cleaning kit  
**FEATURES:** This portable cleaning system is great for taking it on the go. Toss it in your range bag or backpack, and you always have a way to clean your firearms.

## STREAMLIGHT INC.

**MODEL:** ProTac HL® 3

**WEBSITE:** Streamlight.com

**MSRP:** \$120

**FUNCTION:** Tactical light

**FEATURES:** This dual-output light delivers 1100 lumens of white light on high setting and 35 on low. Features programmable three-position setting, (low/strobe/high), with a beam distance of 69 meters on high setting. Runtime is two hours on high/strobe, and 43 hours on low.



## SUREFIRE

**MODEL:** E1D LED Defender

**WEBSITE:** SureFire.com

**MSRP:** \$245

**FUNCTION:** Tactical light

**FEATURES:** The E1D offers dual-output high-intensity beam of 300 lumens, and a bezel and tailcap which can be used for striking an aggressor in high stress situations. It has a two-way clip for attaching to the brim of a cap for hands-free use. Similar to the E2DL.

## **HORNADY**

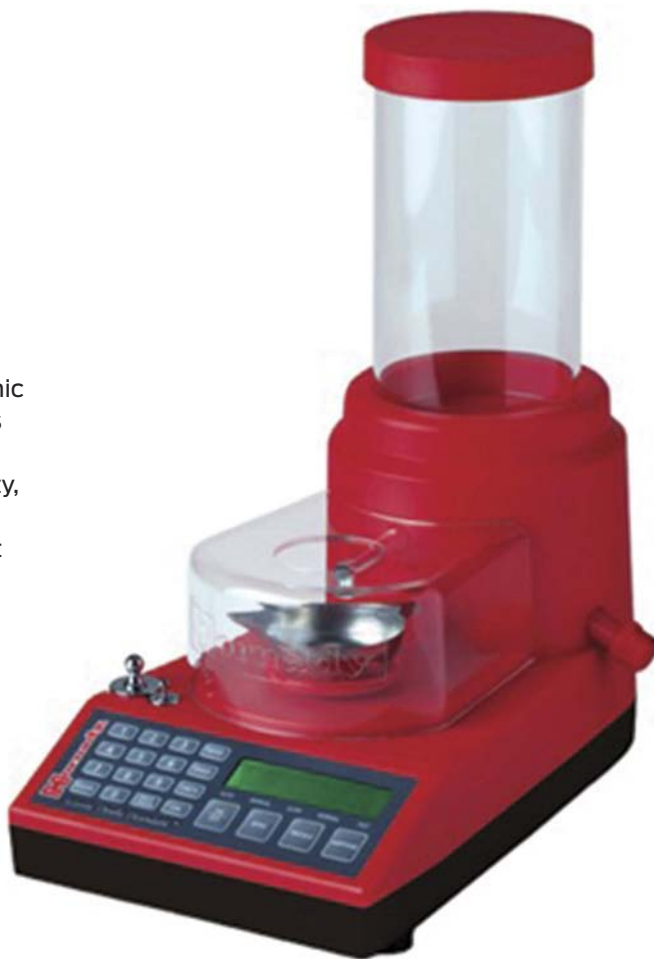
**MODEL:** Lock-N-Load

**WEBSITE:** Hornady.com

**MSRP:** \$317

**FUNCTION:** Electronic powder measure

**FEATURES:** This electronic powder dispenser meters powder. This measure offers precision and safety, and it has an easy to use keypad to enter the exact powder charge.




## **SEAHORSE HANDGUN CASE**

**MODEL:** SE540FP4

**WEBSITE:** Seahorse.net

**MSRP:** \$80

**FUNCTION:** Hard pistol cases

**FEATURES:** The waterproof, lightweight, hard cases can transport up to four handguns. It has a tongue and groove and relief valve for pressure release. It is an excellent way to transport firearms when traveling, and it meets TSA checked baggage guidelines. 





PHOTOS BY GUS ALONNZO

# MODERN **GUNFIGHTING**

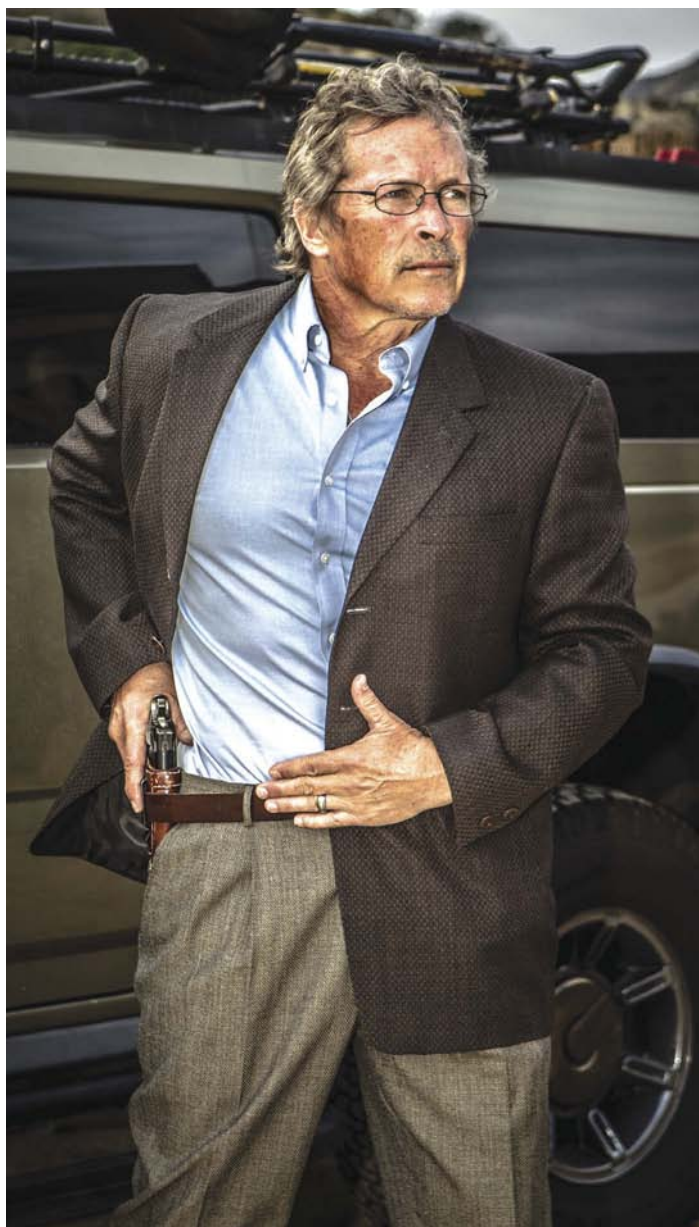
5 CCW Essentials You Must Know

BY TORREY KIM

*Think a three-hour class will make you qualified to carry concealed? Think again.*

*“It’s so much more than what holster or what weapons system you have. More importantly, it’s about how you, as an individual carrying concealed, represent yourself. What do you know? What tactics can you employ? Can you defuse a situation?”*

*— Scott Reitz*



**H**ave you ever been caught off-guard and had to make a split-second decision? Maybe it involved catching a baseball coming at you or dodging a car that ran a red light. Now imagine reacting that fast with a loaded firearm in your hand. The results can be heroic — but they can also be devastatingly life-changing if you make the wrong choice.

What separates the bad decisions from the good comes down to appropriate training, says Scott Reitz, lead firearms and tactics instructor with International Tactical Training Seminars. As a 30-year LAPD veteran who trained over 7,000 officers annually in advanced firearms and tactics, Reitz has a unique insight into what’s required of shooters who want to carry a concealed weapon — and it involves a lot more than a three-hour class or viewing a few YouTube videos. Read on for Reitz’s advice for aspiring concealed carriers.

## **ESSENTIAL 1**

### **NOVICES NEED NOT APPLY**

Before you even consider applying for a concealed carry permit, make sure you’re already an adept shooter.

“A person has to be up to a certain level of proficiency, not only in terms of the mechanics of shooting including sights, trigger press, follow-through, loading, unloading, manipulations and malfunction drills, but also understanding the laws of deadly force very thoroughly before thinking about getting a CCW,” Reitz says.

Unfortunately, many of the “training” articles and classes available today only deal with how to draw the pistol and shoot fast, with no education on the application of deadly force, which is the most important factor, Reitz adds. He shares an analogy to offer an understanding of how limited your skills will be if you aren’t adequately trained in concealed carry.









"Let's say you want to learn to fly a plane," he says. "I take you on one and I take off, do the pre-flight checks, fire up the engines and check the instruments. Then, when we get to 15,000 feet, I give you the controls for an hour and you bank it up and down. With that limited training, you aren't qualified to carry a load of people on the plane. Similarly, in a state where all you have to do is say, 'I don't have a criminal record, I can carry concealed,' I don't consider that to be adequate training."

## **ESSENTIAL 2**

### **UNDERSTAND THE APPLICATION OF DEADLY FORCE**

The reason you want to carry a concealed weapon is because you probably believe you might eventually have to apply deadly force — and if that's the whole reason you're carrying, then it's the most essential factor to master before you are qualified to fire a weapon, Reitz says.

As one of few instructors who is a Federal and Superior Court qualified expert in deadly force, training, safety and police tactics, Reitz has testified and consulted in the defense of police, F.B.I., U.S. Secret Service and B.A.T.F. as well as other high profile cases. One thing he has learned is that every shooting mistake is an open invitation for an in-depth investigation into your background, so it had better be pristine if you intend to carry a weapon.

"If you become involved in a shooting, the courts will look into your history, your training, how many classes you took, your understanding of the laws of deadly force, the

precipitating factors of the incident and other force options you could have utilized short of deadly force," he says. "And if you're in a deposition for four hours and asked 200 questions and can't answer a single one of those to an appreciable degree, you'll lose everything you've ever owned and everything you're going to own. It's so much more than what holster or what

## **FOR MORE READING**

**BOOK** The Art of Modern Gunfighting

**AUTHORS** Scott Reitz and Brett McQueen

**LENGTH** 216 pages

**SAMPLE SECTIONS** Gunfights, Firearms Safety, Basics, Combat Mindset

## **KEY NUMBERS**

### **2.5 to 3**

In seconds, the length of time for the average shooting between presentation and fire

### **960**

In hours, the average amount of time a police officer has to devote to training before he is certified







weapons system you have. More importantly, it's about how you, as an individual carrying concealed, represent yourself. What do you know? What tactics can you employ? Can you defuse a situation? What's the background to the incident?"

Both in the U.S. and abroad the application of deadly force is treated very, very seriously, Reitz says.

"The courts expect you to understand that if you're carrying concealed you must know the law," he says. "The ability to carry a concealed weapon does not address that in any way shape or form, which is a disservice to those carrying concealed."

Therefore, Reitz says, you should extend your training to protect yourself and your family, and to ensure that you've got the best background possible before carrying a weapon.

### **ESSENTIAL 3 RESEARCH YOUR TRAINER**

Although you may envision your training and that of a police officer to be worlds apart, the reality is that law enforcement officers are typically in situations that replicate civilian incidents, Reitz says, and your training should therefore mirror theirs.

"Civilians are going to be confronted by bad guys just like the police are, and the average shooting between presentation and fire is 2.5 to three seconds — they're fast," he says. "No matter what the situation, you typically don't have time to warm up, nobody's going to

tell you how many rounds you need to fire, you're not going to know be able to predict what's in the background, if the target is moving, the lighting, if you're disabled, if a weapon might malfunction — no one can walk you through that — you're on your own," he says.

So if you want to be a responsible individual who morally, legally and ethically lives by your actions, you should invest in quality training from skilled teachers.

"Everyone and his brother claims to be a firearm expert, but many instructors are only certified to teach safety and rudimentary skills," Reitz says. "Plus, many schools provide no vetting of instructors, so you can find people with criminal records teaching firearms courses."

Likewise, Reitz says, online training is not useful and is impractical because it isn't hands-on. His advice?

"Do your due diligence, check the trainer out." Here's a good way: if you want to know if a trainer is who he says he is, ask for his CV. Tell him to sign it and that you're going to check everything on it."

### **ESSENTIAL 4 CONTINUE TRAINING AFTER GETTING YOUR CCW**

Training shouldn't be a topic you approach when you're required to do so — it should be a lifelong skill that you continue to practice and hone.

"We're all aware of police shootings which don't go very well, especially given

*“An individual that isn't trained may have good intentions, but he probably doesn't understand partial targets, hostage resolution, low-level light shooting, firing one handed, braced, unbraced, speed reloads, and issues like that.”*

— Scott Reitz

### **TRAINING AT ITTS**

The CCW classes offered by International Tactical Training Seminars require students to have attained a certain level of proficiency before they can participate. The classes cover safety, methods of carry, types of holsters and preferred weapon systems, among other topics.

Students then work with moving targets, a real-world knife system that comes at you, and other proprietary devices that the school designed and built that replicate shooting experiences in both night and day, as well as in vehicles, while loading and unloading, and other situations. "It's a lot more extensive than shooting at a paper target," Reitz says.

### **HOW TO FIND ITTS**

**COMPANY** International Tactical Training Seminars

**WEB** [www.InternationalTactical.com](http://www.InternationalTactical.com)





the recent shootings in the news,” Reitz says. “But consider the fact that the average police officer has to go through 960 hours of training before they’re certified — and as a civilian, you’re not even beginning to approach that level of training or everything deadly force entails. So what happens is some of these people carrying concealed weapons probably shouldn’t be and are more a liability than an asset.”

After your initial training, follow the example that law enforcement officers set and keep training consistently.

“When I was in the LAPD, every two weeks I spent three solid days shooting and another four days on tactics,” Reitz says. “And yet there are still mistakes made. So an individual that isn’t trained may have good intentions, but he probably doesn’t understand partial targets, hostage resolution, low level-light shooting, firing one handed, braced, unbraced, speed reloads and issues like that.”

#### ESSENTIAL 5

##### ALWAYS BE PROFESSIONAL

To ensure your safety and that of everyone around you, always act professionally if you’re carrying a weapon.

“I believe it’s important to infuse a level of professionalism into self-defense in the use firearms,” Reitz says.

“Unfortunately, it is sorely lacking right now and it’s becoming less and less prevalent in what I’ve seen through the years.”

To ensure that you can maintain professionalism, use the tips above to become as thoroughly trained as possible with experienced teachers, practice your craft constantly, and never let your guard down. ☐

*Torrey Kim, a North Carolina resident, is a freelance journalist who contributes to a number of Engaged Media publications, including Firepower and American Survival Guide.*

“Civilians are going to be confronted by bad guys just like the police are, and the average shooting between presentation and fire is 2.5 to three seconds ...”

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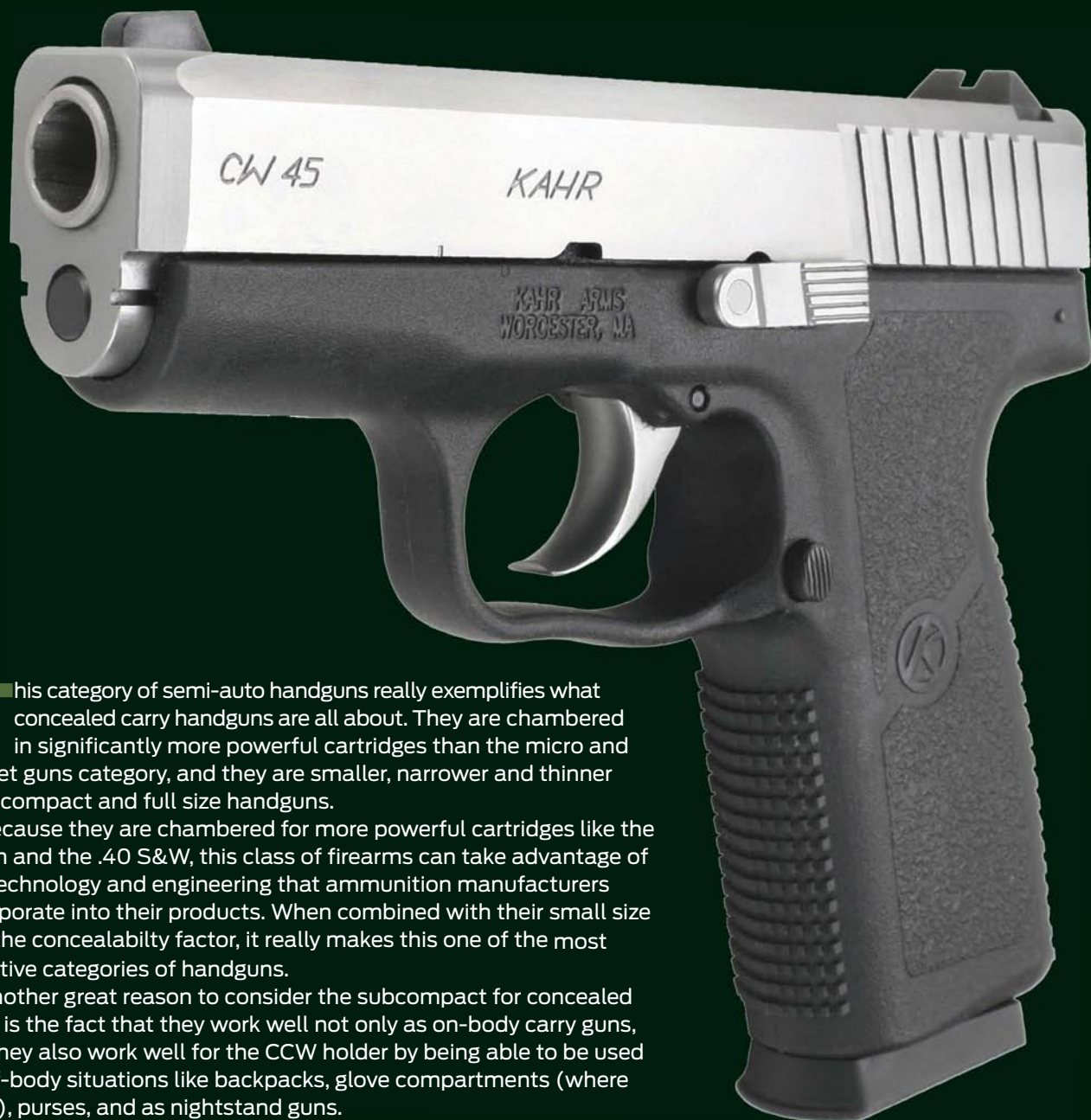
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## SEMICOMPACT REVOLVERS

# BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

*The Small but Mighty Subcompact Guns Offer Concealability and Firepower*



**T**his category of semi-auto handguns really exemplifies what concealed carry handguns are all about. They are chambered in significantly more powerful cartridges than the micro and pocket guns category, and they are smaller, narrower and thinner than compact and full size handguns.

Because they are chambered for more powerful cartridges like the .9mm and the .40 S&W, this class of firearms can take advantage of the technology and engineering that ammunition manufacturers incorporate into their products. When combined with their small size and the concealability factor, it really makes this one of the most effective categories of handguns.

Another great reason to consider the subcompact for concealed carry is the fact that they work well not only as on-body carry guns, but they also work well for the CCW holder by being able to be used in off-body situations like backpacks, glove compartments (where legal), purses, and as nightstand guns.

Really, the subcompact offers the best of two worlds, concealability and firepower, without sacrificing intangibles like “shootability.” You won’t win the National Trophy Individual Match at Camp Perry, but the accuracy they bring is more than sufficient for close-in shots like those at which violent confrontations often occur.

PHOTO BY KAHR ARMS

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$300-\$600**

## Bersa

**MODEL:** THUNDER 380 CC

**WEBSITE:** Bersa.com

**MSRP:** \$323

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .380 ACP

**Capacity:** 7+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.50 inches

**Length:** 6.0 inches

**Width:** 1.0 inch

**Height:** 4.50 inches

**Weight:** 16.40 ounces

**Features:** Drift-adjustable rear sight, sculpted grip, bobbed low-profile hammer



## Taurus

**MODEL:** 709 SLIM

**WEBSITE:** TaurusUSA.com

**MSRP:** \$349

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 7+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.0 inches

**Length:** 6.0 inches

**Weight:** 19.0 ounces

**Features:** Low profile fixed sights, ergonomic design, and snag-free controls



## Taurus

**MODEL:** MILLENNIUM G2

**WEBSITE:** TaurusUSA.com

**MSRP:** \$434.59

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 12+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.20 inches

**Length:** 6.20 inches

**Weight:** 22.0 ounces

**Features:** Compact frame with adjustable rear sight. It also features a loaded chamber indicator, textured grips and an accessory rail for attaching lights and/or lasers. Newly redesigned for 2014, the gun also features "melted" edges for comfortable concealed carry.



# SEMICOMPACT REVOLVERS



## Taurus

**MODEL:** M180 CURVE  
**WEBSITE:** TaurusUSA.com  
**MSRP:** \$392.59  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** 380 ACP  
**Capacity:** 6+1  
**Barrel Length:** 2.50 inches  
**Length:** 6.20 inches  
**Weight:** 10.20 ounces

**Features:** Subcompact polymer frame with a metallic subframe. The Curve is shaped to fit the contours of the human body to make it more comfortable for concealed carry. The gun comes equipped with a magazine disconnect and a loaded chamber indicator. The tactical light and laser sight is incorporated right into the frame.

## Bersa



**MODEL:** BP9CC  
**WEBSITE:** Bersa.com  
**MSRP:** \$429  
**Action:** STR  
**Caliber:** 9mm  
**Capacity:** 8+1  
**Barrel Length:** 3.30 inches  
**Length:** 6.35 inches  
**Width:** 0.94 inches  
**Height:** 4.80 inches  
**Weight:** 21.50 ounces

**Features:** White-outlined rear sight, polymer frame, rear sight interchanges with Glock

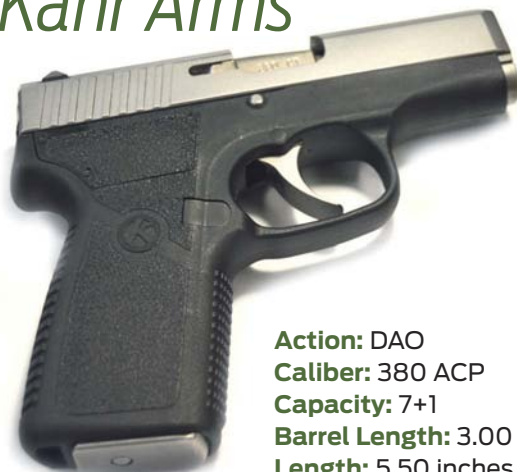
## Beretta



**MODEL:** BU9 NANO  
**WEBSITE:** BerettaUSA.com  
**MSRP:** \$475  
**Action:** STR  
**Caliber:** 9mm  
**Capacity:** 6+1  
**Barrel Length:** 3.00 inches  
**Length:** 5.60 inches  
**Width:** 0.90 inches  
**Height:** 4.20 inches  
**Weight:** 20.0 ounces

**Features:** Adjustable sights, striker-fired, extremely small 9mm size

## Kahr Arms



**Action:** DAO  
**Caliber:** 380 ACP  
**Capacity:** 7+1  
**Barrel Length:** 3.00 inches  
**Length:** 5.50 inches  
**Width:** 0.75 inches  
**Height:** 4.40 inches  
**Weight:** 11.0 ounces

**MODEL:** CT380  
**WEBSITE:** Kahr.com  
**MSRP:** \$419

**Features:** Double action only in operation, the Kahr fills a unique niche in the subcompact category. The CT380 is one of the smallest and thinnest 380 pistols on the market. Paired with a good IWB holster, this gun makes a great firearm for CCW holders.

## Kahr Arms

**MODEL:** CM9

**WEBSITE:** Kahr.com

**MSRP:** \$517

**Action:** DAO

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 6+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.00 inches

**Length:** 6.50 inches

**Width:** 1.20 inches

**Height:** 4.20 inches

**Weight:** 19.0 ounces

**Features:** Polymer frame for weight reduction, very narrow, stippled grips for control



## Ruger

**MODEL:** SR40C

**WEBSITE:** Ruger.com

**MSRP:** \$529

**Action:** STR

**Caliber:** .40 SW

**Capacity:** 9+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.50 inches

**Length:** 6.90 inches

**Width:** 1.30 inches

**Height:** 4.60 inches

**Weight:** 23.4 ounces

**Features:** Interchangeable backstrap, polymer frame to save weight, ambidextrous mag release, and optional 15+1 extended magazine



## Ruger

**MODEL:** LC380

**WEBSITE:** Ruger.com

**MSRP:** \$449 (\$629 for Crimson Trace Version)

**Action:** STR

**Caliber:** .380 ACP

**Capacity:** 7+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.10 inches

**Length:** 6.00 inches

**Width:** 0.90 inches

**Height:** 4.50 inches

**Weight:** 17.2 ounces

**Features:** Polymer frame with blued slide. Same size as the LC9, but chambered for the 380 cartridge for reduced recoil and a more comfortable shooting gun in extended range sessions. 3 dot sight and three internal safeties with a loaded chamber indicator.



# SEMICOMPACT REVOLVERS



*Beretta*

**MODEL:** PX4 STORM  
**SUBCOMPACT**

**WEBSITE:** BerettaUSA.com

**MSRP:** \$575

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 13+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.00 inches

**Length:** 6.20 inches

**Width:** 1.40 inches

**Height:** 4.80 inches

**Weight:** 26.0 ounces

**Features:** Accessory rail, ambidextrous safety/decocker, smallest Storm



*Glock*

**MODEL:** G27

**WEBSITE:** Glock.com

**MSRP:** \$599

**Action:** STR

**Caliber:** .40 SW

**Capacity:** 9+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.43 inches

**Length:** 6.50 inches

**Width:** 1.20 inches

**Height:** 4.20 inches

**Weight:** 20.0 ounces

**Features:** White outline rear sight, polymer frame for light weight, combat trigger guard, double stack magazine



*Glock*

**MODEL:** G42

**WEBSITE:** Glock.com

**MSRP:** \$469

**Action:** STR

**Caliber:** .380 Auto

**Capacity:** 6+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.25 inches

**Length:** 5.94 inches

**Width:** 0.94 inches

**Height:** 4.13 inches

**Weight:** 0.87 pounds

**Features:** Smallest Glock ever produced, super-concealable, white outline rear sight, polymer frame for light weight, combat trigger guard, double-stack magazine.

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$600 & \$800**



*Glock*

**MODEL:** G39

**WEBSITE:** Glock.com

**MSRP:** \$614

**Action:** STR

**Caliber:** .45 GAP

**Capacity:** 6+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.50 inches

**Length:** 6.50 inches

**Width:** 1.20 inches

**Height:** 4.20 inches

**Weight:** 20.0 ounces

**Features:** White outline rear sight, polymer frame for light weight, combat trigger guard, double stack magazine



## Walther

**MODEL:** PPK

**WEBSITE:** WaltherAmerica.com

**MSRP:** \$626

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .380 ACP

**Capacity:** 6+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.4 inches

**Length:** 6.10 inches

**Width:** 1.00 inches

**Height:** 3.90 inches

**Weight:** 22.4 ounces

**Features:** James Bond's original defensive pistol, sleek profile, snag-free design, decocking lever

## Kahr Arms

**MODEL:** P380

**WEBSITE:** Kahr.com

**MSRP:** \$649

**Action:** DAO

**Caliber:** .380 ACP

**Capacity:** 6+1

**Barrel Length:** 2.50 inches

**Length:** 4.90 inches

**Width:** 0.75 inches

**Height:** 3.90 inches

**Weight:** 11.0 ounces

**Features:** Textured polymer grip, very compact design, optional Crimson Trace laser, optional night sights



## Sig Sauer

**MODEL:** P238

**WEBSITE:** SigSauer.com

**MSRP:** \$693

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** .380 ACP

**Capacity:** 6+1

**Barrel Length:** 2.70 inches

**Length:** 5.50 inches

**Width:** 1.10 inches

**Height:** 3.90 inches

**Weight:** 15.0 ounces

**Features:** Cocked-and-locked single action carry, 1911-style in a subcompact, many finishes/colors available





# SEMICOMPACT REVOLVERS



## Springfield

**MODEL:** XD(M) 3.8 9MM

**WEBSITE:** Springfield-Armory.com

**MSRP:** \$697

**Action:** STR

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 19+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.80 inches

**Length:** 7.00 inches

**Height:** 5.60 inches

**Weight:** 28.0 ounces

**Features:** Grip safety, trigger safety, fiber optic front sight, outstanding capacity, snag-free rear combat sight



## Kimber

**MODEL:** SOLO CARRY

**WEBSITE:** KimberAmerica.com

**MSRP:** \$747

**Action:** STR

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 6+1

**Barrel Length:** 2.70 inches

**Length:** 5.50 inches

**Width:** 1.00 inch

**Weight:** 17.0 ounces

**Features:** Low profile white dot sights, 1911-inspired design in striker-fired configuration, three-dot combat sights, aluminum frame

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$800 & Up**

## Colt

**MODEL:** NEW AGENT

**WEBSITE:** Coltsmfg.com

**MSRP:** \$885

**Action:** DAO

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 7+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.00 inches

**Length:** 6.75 inches

**Weight:** 22.5 ounces

**Features:** Slim-fit double diamond grips, trench-style no-snag sight milled into frame, extremely streamlined design



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# PERFORMING **UNDER PRESSURE**

Does Competition Shooting Prepare  
You for the Real World?

BY BRAD FITZPATRICK

It's a hot topic that creates high emotions. Just ask someone if competition shooting prepares you for the real world.

To get some further insight into the topic, we asked two former LE officers, both of whom have excelled on the competition circuit. — *Editor*



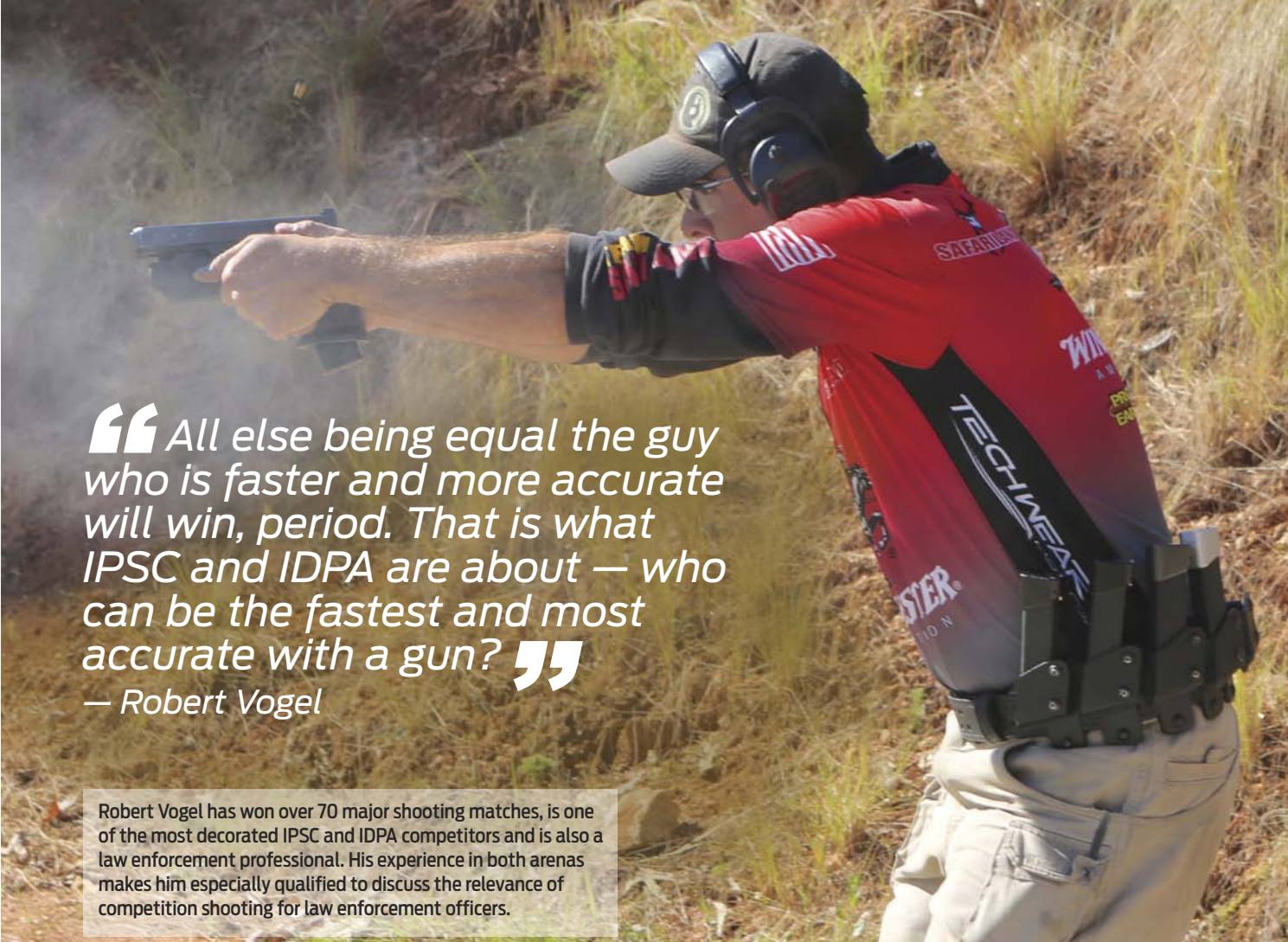
Does competition help you survive in a gunfight? It's hard to say, but both our experts agree it doesn't hurt you. Both Canovi and Vogel say that competition introduces pressure, which is a good thing.

## HOW TO REACH THEM

**NAME** Robert Vogel  
**WEB** [VogelDynamics.com](http://VogelDynamics.com)

**NAME** Matt Canovi  
**WEB** [MattCanovi.com](http://MattCanovi.com)

PHOTOS COURTESY ROBERT VOGEL AND MATT CANOVI

A full-page background image of Robert Vogel, a competitive shooter, in a field. He is wearing a red long-sleeved shirt with "TECHWEAR" and "WINNER" visible, a black cap, and a large black tactical belt. He is holding a handgun with both hands, aiming it forward. The background is a field of tall, dry grass.

**“All else being equal the guy who is faster and more accurate will win, period. That is what IPSC and IDPA are about — who can be the fastest and most accurate with a gun?”**

— Robert Vogel

Robert Vogel has won over 70 major shooting matches, is one of the most decorated IPSC and IDPA competitors and is also a law enforcement professional. His experience in both arenas makes him especially qualified to discuss the relevance of competition shooting for law enforcement officers.

## NO.1

# Robert Vogel

**OCCUPATION:** Competitive shooter/reserve police officer

**CREDENTIALS:** Vogel has been a police officer for 12 years, with 8½ years on the Kenton (Ohio) Police Department. For much of that time, Vogel was also a member of the joint SWAT team for Hardin County. During his last few years, he was “a regular patrol guy handling the things that go on in almost every town: domestic disputes, traffic crashes, bar fights, thefts and a lot of drug related crimes,” so he has practical experience in the day-to-day life of a patrol officer. In 2012, Vogel left full-time law enforcement to pursue a career as a competitive shooter (though he is still a reserve officer). While a competitive shooter, Vogel has accumulated a number of titles. He’s the first law enforcement professional to win the USPSA Nationals and the only LE professional to ever win the IPSC World Championship. Vogel has been a competitive shooter for about 15 years and has accumulated over 70 major match wins, including an IPSC world championship (production) and an IDPA

world championship (stock pistol). Vogel now works as a full-time shooter and instructor.

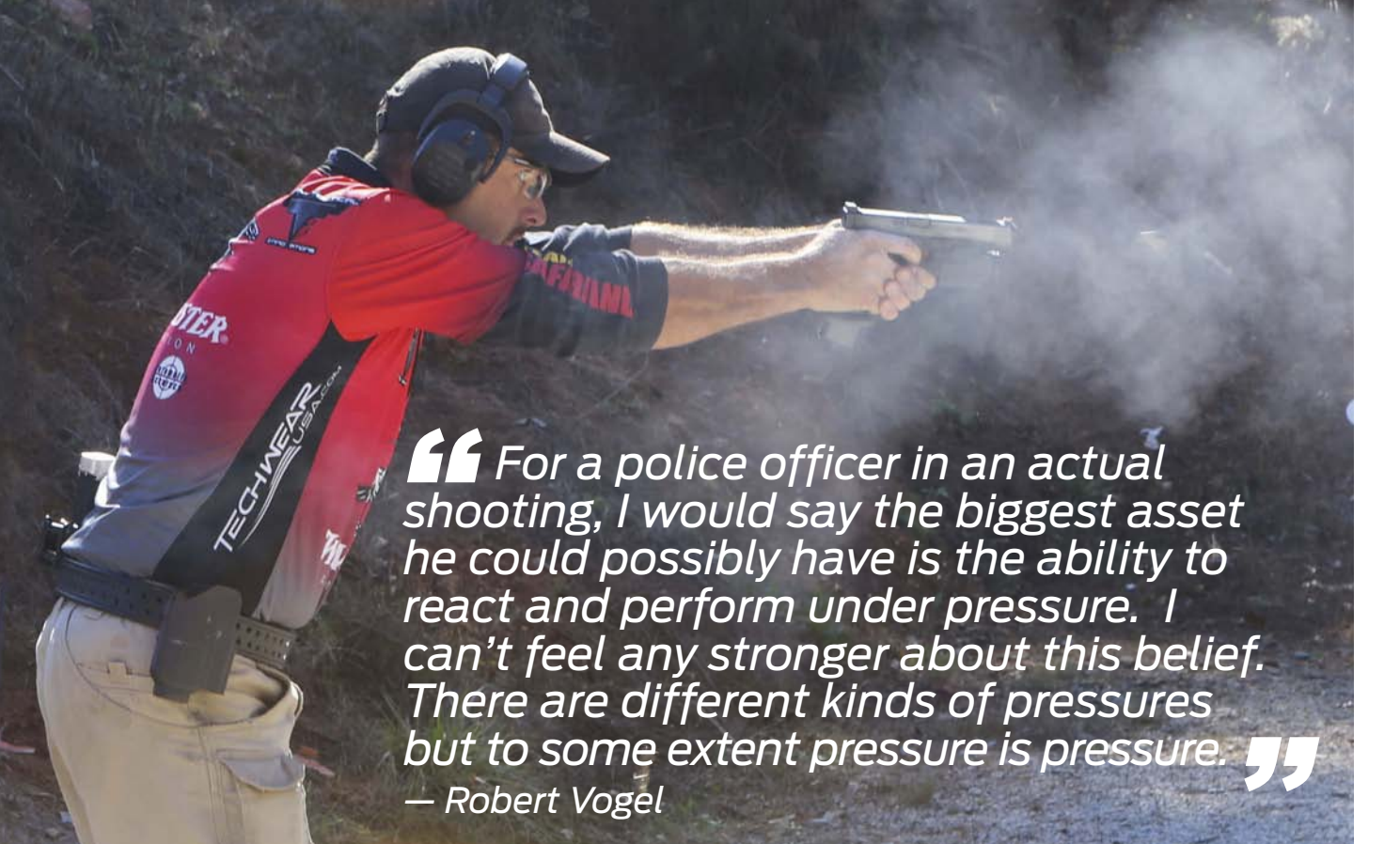
Robert Vogel is one of the most decorated competitive shooters in law enforcement, and his experience has made him one of the top names in IPSC and IDPA competitions. But does Vogel feel that competitive shooting helps prepare officers for the challenges they’ll face on a day-to-day basis?

“Yes,” Vogel says. “For a police officer in an actual shooting, I would say the biggest asset he could possibly have is the ability to react and perform under pressure. I can’t feel any stronger about this belief. There are different kinds of pressures but to some extent pressure is pressure. Furthermore, when you really think about it, how many ways are there to truly put pressure on someone to ‘perform’ with a real loaded gun in their hands?”

Practice in pressure situations is of great benefit to law enforcement professionals, Vogel says, but how do officers mimic that type of tension? Can competition help you prepare for that dreaded moment where winning or losing equates to survival or death?

“We obviously can’t just go out and ‘get into a





**“For a police officer in an actual shooting, I would say the biggest asset he could possibly have is the ability to react and perform under pressure. I can’t feel any stronger about this belief. There are different kinds of pressures but to some extent pressure is pressure.”**  
— Robert Vogel

Vogel says, “for a police officer in an actual shooting I would say the biggest asset he could possibly have is the ability to react and perform under pressure.” Competition can help you learn to shoot under pressure.

gunfight’ to know what it’s like, so we have to rely on other options,” Vogel says. “FATS training, force on force, and simunitions are excellent ways to test ourselves and I highly recommend them. Even then, in none of those are we using and firing a real gun. Outside of those options, though, we are left with very little. Enter competition.”

Vogel says that preparations for competition and real-life tactical training differ, and it’s important to understand how they differ if you want to succeed in a gunfight.

“First, you have to separate shooting skills from tactics for a minute. Yes, they are linked, but they are also two separate entities. So often I see people using tactical clichés to excuse poor shooting. I’m not knocking tactics at all, and I’m not foreign to them either; often they will be more important than the shooting in a real life incident. But tactics are very subjective, circumstantial and hard to really measure. This leads to a lot of different opinions. Because of this, people can often ‘pretend’ to be tactical as well and get away with it. Shooting is, in my opinion, much more black and white. All else being equal the guy who is faster and more accurate will win, period. That is what IPSC and IDPA are about — who can be the fastest and most accurate with a gun?”

According to Vogel, competitive shooters typically are passionate about what they do, and that helps

them improve their skills and become very good with a firearm.

“You need to realize that the typical LE qualification course is often no different than a typical IDPA match in what you actually have to do, except the match is usually a lot harder,” he says. “Why is that? (Because) most cops don’t practice, don’t shoot, and the gun is just another thing hanging off their belt. Someone who will get up at 6 a.m. on a Sunday morning to go to a match likely has a passion for shooting, and it shows in their performance.

“If your average cop could find some more desire and simply go to a match or two with the mindset of just trying to become a better shooter, I think it would be a huge positive. I’m not saying that the average competition shooter would beat the average cop if they had to actually fight each other with a gun — that’s another story and not what this is about. I’m just saying if the cop had the same shooting skill level as the competitive shooter, society would be better off.”

Gunfights happen quickly, and Vogel says that speed saves lives. If competition teaches that, it’s even better.

“Another huge benefit in my opinion is the speed aspect. Most LE courses are based on par times and in my opinion are too slow. They simply have you shoot a given course of fire under a certain amount of time. Because of this you never really



Vogel doesn't necessarily agree with the notion that competitive shooting always teaches bad habits. What competition shooting does accomplish is familiarizing shooters with their firearms.

push to go faster than the standard slow par time. So, say under par time as long as you shoot this particular course in under 10 seconds your good, but if you shoot it in 6 seconds you won't be rewarded at all over the guy who shoots it in 9 seconds. That's not right, because the guy who can get the same hits faster is better, period."

"In practical shooting matches, your score is essentially your time (plus penalties added) so there is no such thing as a perfect score, no matter how fast you can hit the target you can always be faster. This truly pushes people to be better. Not to mention that doing all this actually gets your mind working faster and allows you to begin to think faster. Whereas many people operate in a world of seconds, you now operate in a world of tenths of seconds. Most anyone who has been in a real fight of any kind realizes that speed is a huge tactic. If you can do the same thing faster than the other guy, you've got him."

In teaching a lot of concealed carry classes myself, I think the most common thing inexperienced people don't get is how fast things happen in real life and how important speed is! I'm not saying to do everything at top speed, but when you're used to going quickly, your slow becomes someone else's fast, and you have a real advantage."

Lastly, Vogel addresses what he feels is the primary drawback often associated with competition — the development of bad habits.

"Many (shooters) seem to think that any action you do in a match you will automatically do in the street. But by and large, I just haven't seen that, and it sounds like a convenient excuse to not step out of your comfort zone. The couple times I thought I was about to be shot, the instinct of self-preservation took over, and I got behind cover while still keeping my gun on the threat. I considered that more a situation awareness, common-sense reaction rather than training. I've hunted and shot quite a bit of game, including big game with my defense guns. I've also had to shoot several aggressive dogs in the line of duty that were coming at me. Did I ever unload or show clear or holster my gun quickly like maybe I would in competition? Hell no I didn't, because I was aware of the situation. Again, could this happen? Yes, but is it something I'm overly concerned about? No. I'm much more concerned about simply being a better shooter and being faster and more accurate with my weapons. I myself don't know of a single documented case where a competition shooter got killed because he did some stupid competition-only move in the gunfight. But there are countless examples of those who were killed because they weren't fast or accurate enough with their weapon, and to me that says it all!"

Vogel says that surviving is all about confidence, and competitive shooting has given him the confidence he needs to survive.





Matthew Canovi has over 30 years of law enforcement experience and he is also a winning competitive shooter. He believes that speed is critical to success in a gunfight, but he also says that any competition that helps familiarize you with the firearm will help.

## NO. 2

# Matt Canovi

**OCCUPATION:** Firearms instructor, Owner of Canovi and Associates

**CREDENTIALS:** Matt Canovi of Canovi and Associates is the host of *The Gunshow with Matt Canovi* on FM 104.1 KSGF in Springfield, Missouri and has more than 30 years of law enforcement experience.

Canovi is a United Nations Certified International Police instructor and is also an FBI, NRA, and Missouri POST Certified Police/Firearms Instructor. In the past, he has worked as an undercover narcotics officer for the DEA and as a USMC military security officer. He earned a B in Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Management and is a criminal justice instructor for colleges.

In addition to his work in law enforcement, Matt is also a highly decorated competition shooter, having been successful in both IPSC and IDPA competition, and he won the Missouri Police Olympics gold medal.

Canovi developed the REAL Defensive Shooting System and trains civilians and LE personnel on all types of shooting, from basic self-defense to advanced tactics, at his 40-acre shooting complex outside Springfield.

Additionally, he has IDPA competitions at his facility. He is the author and the producer of a series of videos outlining the REAL Defensive Shooting System. Canovi has also designed a series of holsters and magazine pouches for defensive shooters.

Matt Canovi is in high demand as a trainer, both for law enforcement agencies as well as private civilians who want to learn the basics of his REAL Defensive Shooting System.

Not only does Canovi have an extensive background in law enforcement, he's also a very serious competitive shooter. He says that the answer is not to label all elements of competition "good" or "bad" for law enforcement. Instead, he says it's important to understand what LE professionals are taking away from competition and how those elements relate to day-to-day tactical survival skills that will need to be employed in the event of a deadly shooting.

*“I dropped my magazine and replaced it with a full one. In actuality, I’d fired eight shots, and I only had one left in the gun. If someone had come out the back door when I finished shooting I would have one cartridge left, but since I changed the magazine I was ready.”*

— Matt Canovi

Canovi is driven by facts, and he has examined studies of fatal shooting statistics involving police. There’s a great deal to be learned from this evidence, Canovi says, and lesson number one is that accuracy does not always lead to success in a gunfight.

“There was a study several years ago by the NYPD and the Metro Dade Police Department to see if there was a correlation between an officer’s score at the range and their success in an actual gunfight,” Canovi says. “There was none. There was no correlation between an officer’s performance on the range targets and their success in real-life situations.”

This study indicates that being able to shoot a gun accurately is not indicative of success in a lethal encounter. In plainer terms, shooting small groups does not in and of itself keep you alive in the event of a deadly confrontation. Canovi cites another statis-

tic, which is even more telling, from the FBI.

“In a gunfight officers fail to hit the target 80 percent of the time, according to the FBI study,” says Canovi.

It’s a telling statistic and one that indicates that officers oftentimes fail to translate their training into success in a real-life situation.

For Canovi, a competitive shooter, there are certainly elements of competitive shooting that have helped him become better prepared to survive a dangerous shootout. In one case in particular, he and another officer were serving a search warrant when the homeowner released an attack dog, an 85-pound Rottweiler. The dog came directly at Canovi’s partner, who began shooting, and Canovi also fired on the dog as it made its way toward them. After several shots, the dog was down.

“I figured I’d fired five or six times, and we had

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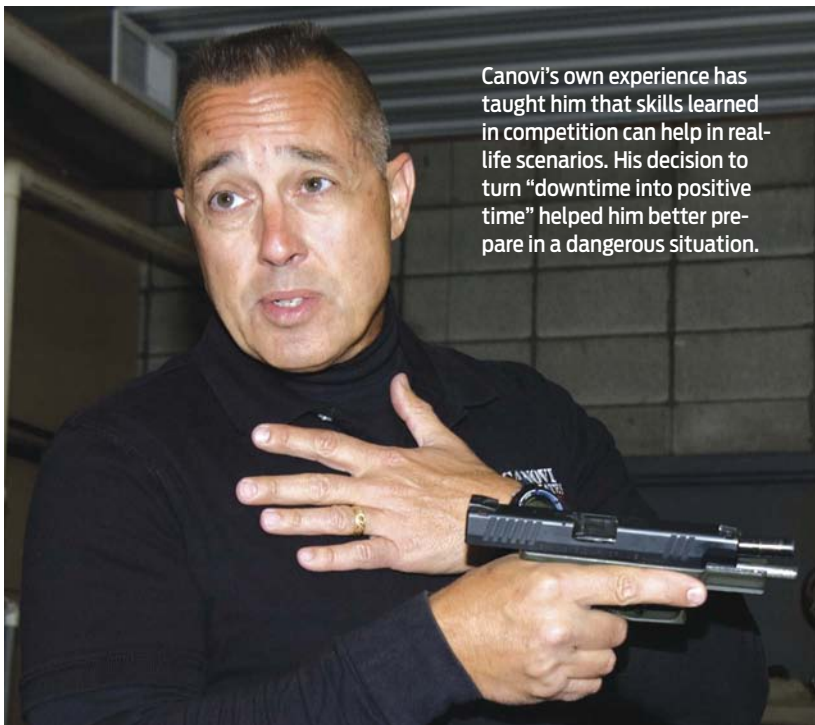
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Canovi's own experience has taught him that skills learned in competition can help in real-life scenarios. His decision to turn "downtime into positive time" helped him better prepare in a dangerous situation.

*“If you're in a deadly shooting and the other guy takes one second to fire and you take two, then you lose.”*  
— Matt Canovi

Smith & Wesson 645s at the time which held eight rounds in the magazine,” he says. “The action was closed so I knew I had more cartridges in the gun, but I was taught in IPSC competition to turn downtime into positive time. I had some downtime, so I dropped my magazine and replaced it with a full one. In actuality, I'd fired eight shots, and I only had one left in the gun. If someone had come out the back door when I finished shooting I would have one cartridge left, but since I changed the magazine I was ready.”

Canovi has also talked to several law enforcement officers who were engaged in deadly encounters and there is a consistent thread that runs through all of their stories; everything happened in a matter of a few seconds. Since these violent confrontations happen so quickly, speed is elemental to survival.

IDPA, Canovi says, promotes accuracy, and a slower shooter with a better accuracy score wins. IPSC is just the opposite, favoring shooters who shoot more quickly. Canovi believes that the most fundamental element to surviving a deadly encounter is speed, and since IPSC competitions favor faster shooters, he says that those competitions provide the incentive to learn to shoot quicker. Most deadly encounters, he says, occur at 10 feet and are over in a couple seconds. Because of this, there's an obvious advantage for the faster shooter.

“If you're in a deadly shooting and the other guy takes one second to fire and you take two, then you lose,” Canovi says.

IDPA, he says, even states that their competitions are not designed for combat training. They teach marksmanship, with speed acting as an important but secondary component of the competition.

If you think that Canovi is against IDPA competition

for police officers you're wrong, though. While he makes it clear that speed is elemental to winning a gunfight (and teaches that in his REAL courses), learning to shoot IDPA does have some very real advantages.

“Competition helps you to become familiar with your firearm,” Canovi says, and he believes that's elemental to surviving in a gunfight.

Some officers rarely shoot their gun, and some only fire their weapon to qualify annually. This type of inattention doesn't lend itself to being particularly familiar with your firearm, and Canovi believes that a shooter who engages in any competition, IDPA or IPSC, is usually familiar with their weapon.

“Pressure” shooting involves unconscious movements engrained in our muscle memory, and although the stakes are much lower it's very similar to experiences you may have had in sports. When there is pressure to hit a pitch to win a baseball game, sink a six-foot putt to take the lead in a big golf tournament or hit the winning jump shot to advance your team to the regional championship you simply can't think about what you need to do. The muscles need to perform on their own, and that kind of performance only comes with repeated movement.

Shooting competitively introduces you to pressure and familiarizes you with your firearm, regardless of the format. And that, Canovi believes, is a very good thing. [CC](#)

*Brad Fitzpatrick is the author of two books, attended Northern Kentucky University where he earned a degree in biology and was a member of the school's trap and skeet team. He is currently a full-time writer and lives near Cincinnati.*



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**COMPACT SEMIS**

# DOUBLE DUTY

*For Several Reasons, Including Defense and Compactness, Compact Semis Are Among the Most Popular Handguns*



**N**o doubt about it. The compact handgun is one of the most popular firearms for those that have their CCW permit, and for good reason. Not only is the pistol chambered for the most useful cartridges for defense, such as 9mm, 40 S&W, 357 Sig and 45 ACP, and the guns are large enough to be controllable when firing two and three shot drills; but they are also compact enough to be easily concealed by CCW holders under virtually any type of body and clothing combination.

And that's not all.

The compact handgun category is excellent at serving double duty. They are small enough for everyday carry, and they can also be used at a defensive shooting class, where the shooter may fire 200 rounds in a day over a three- or five-day period. They are useful for the various types of practical shooting competitions that help build the kinds of gunhandling skills and muscle memory that CCW holders, and people that carry for defensive purposes need to have.

PHOTO BY STI INTERNATIONAL

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$299-\$599**

## SCCY Industries

**MODEL:** CPX-1

**WEBSITE:** SCCY.com

**MSRP:** \$299

**Action:** DAO

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 10+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.1 inches

**Length:** 5.7 inches

**Width:** 1.0 inch

**Weight:** 15 ounces

**Features:** Snag-free design, lever-style slide release, all-internal hammer



## Kahr Arms

**MODEL:** CW40

**WEBSITE:** Kahr.com

**MSRP:** \$549

**Action:** DAO

**Caliber:** .40 SW

**Capacity:** 6+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.60 inches

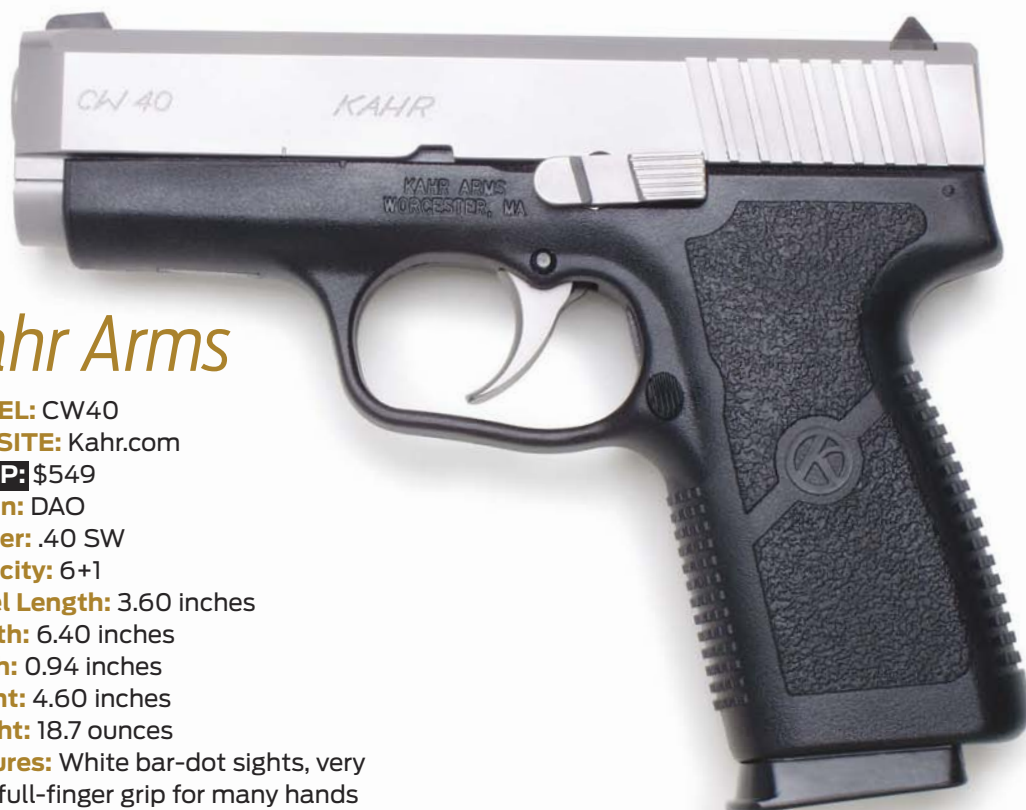
**Length:** 6.40 inches

**Width:** 0.94 inches

**Height:** 4.60 inches

**Weight:** 18.7 ounces

**Features:** White bar-dot sights, very slim, full-finger grip for many hands





## COMPACT SEMIS



*Beretta  
USA*

**MODEL:** PX4 STORM COMPACT

**WEBSITE:** BerettaUSA.com

**MSRP:** \$550

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .40 SW

**Capacity:** 12+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.20 inches

**Length:** 7.60 inches

**Width:** 1.40 inches

**Height:** 5.50 inches

**Weight:** 27.7 ounces

**Features:** Interchangeable backstraps, accessory rail, full-finger grip, concealable dimensions

## *EAA Corporation*



**MODEL:** WITNESS COMPACT

**WEBSITE:** EAACorp.com

**MSRP:** \$557

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .40 SW

**Capacity:** 12+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.6 inches

**Length:** 7.3 inches

**Width:** 1.4 inches

**Height:** 4.5 inches

**Weight:** 30 ounces

**Features:** Steel frame for long service life, compact version of the full-size Witness model, chambered in 9mm

## Smith & Wesson



**MODEL:**

M&P 40C

**WEBSITE:**

Smith-Wesson.com

**MSRP:** \$569

**Action:** STR

**Caliber:** .40 SW

**Capacity:** 10+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.5

**Length:** 6.7 inches

**Width:** 1.2 inches

**Height:** 4.3 inches

**Weight:** 22 ounces

**Features:** Steel Novak low-mount sights, smallest .40 SW in the M&P line, snag-free design

## CZ

**MODEL:**

75 PCR COMPACT

**WEBSITE:**

CZ-USA.com

**MSRP:** \$582

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 14+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.80 inches

**Length:** 7.24 inches

**Width:** 1.38 inches

**Height:** 5.03 inches

**Weight:** 27.4 ounces

**Features:** Forged aluminum alloy frame, decocking lever, rubber grip panels, lightweight





## COMPACT SEMIS

### Taurus International



**MODEL:** DT 40

**WEBSITE:** TaurusUSA.com

**MSRP:** \$589

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .40 SW

**Capacity:** 11+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.20 inches

**Length:** 6.30 inches

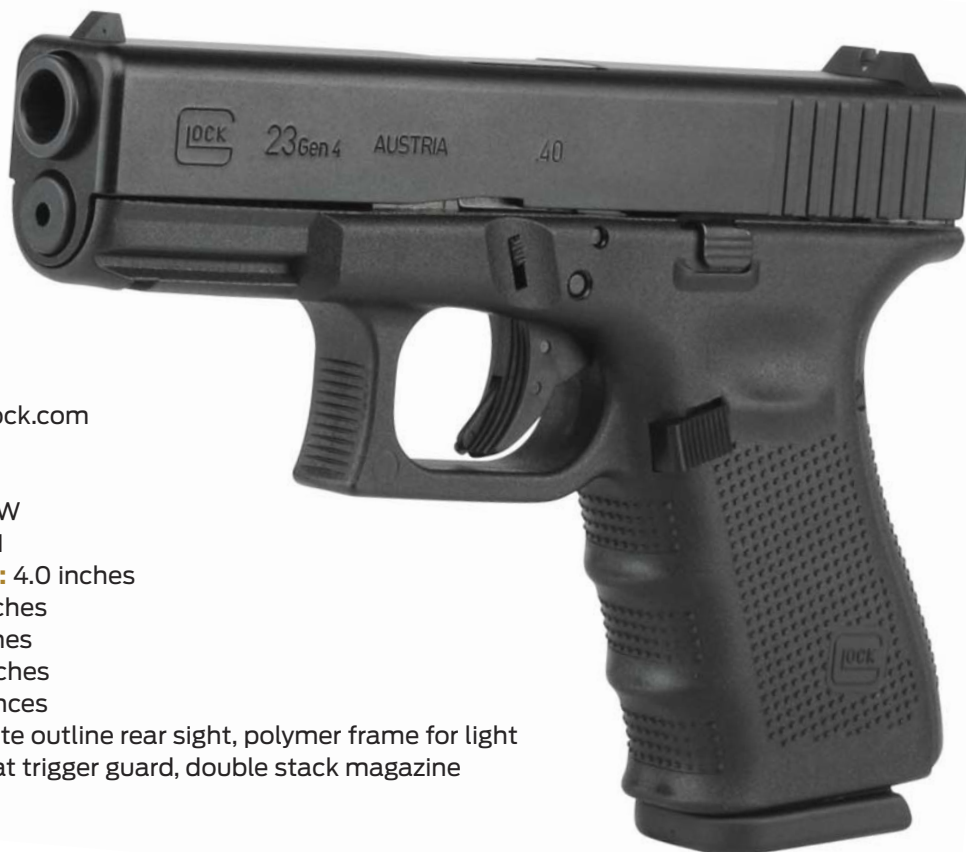
**Width:** 1.15 inches

**Height:** 5.00 inches

**Weight:** 24.0 ounces

**Features:** Adjustable sights, safety integral to trigger, polymer frame to save weight

### Glock



**MODEL:** G23

**WEBSITE:** Glock.com

**MSRP:** \$599

**Action:** STR

**Caliber:** .40 SW

**Capacity:** 13+1

**Barrel Length:** 4.0 inches

**Length:** 7.4 inches

**Width:** 1.2 inches

**Height:** 5.0 inches

**Weight:** 21 ounces

**Features:** White outline rear sight, polymer frame for light weight, combat trigger guard, double stack magazine

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$600-\$900**

## Magnum Research

**MODEL:** BABY DESERT EAGLE II  
**WEBSITE:** MagnumResearch.com  
**MSRP:** \$630  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** 9mm  
**Capacity:** 10+1  
**Barrel Length:** 4.52 inches  
**Length:** 8.25 inches  
**Weight:** 38.6 ounces

**Features:** Three dot sights, integral accessory rail, firing pin block safety, carbon steel slide



## Glock

**MODEL:** G30SF  
**WEBSITE:** Glock.com  
**MSRP:** \$687  
**Action:** STR  
**Caliber:** .45 ACP  
**Capacity:** 10+1  
**Barrel Length:** 3.8 inches  
**Length:** 6.9 inches  
**Width:** 1.3 inches  
**Height:** 4.9 inches  
**Weight:** 20 ounces  
**Features:** White outline rear sight, polymer frame for light weight, combat trigger guard, double stack magazine





# COMPACT SEMIS

## Beretta USA



**MODEL:** CHEETAH 85FS

**WEBSITE:** BerettaUSA.com

**MSRP:** \$770

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .380 ACP

**Capacity:** 8+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.80 inches

**Length:** 6.80 inches

**Width:** 1.40 inches

**Height:** 4.80 inches

**Weight:** 23.3 ounces

**Features:** Cocked-and-locked capable, safety/decocker, scaled-down cousin of the 92FS/M9 model

## Sig Sauer, Inc.



**MODEL:** P239 DAK

**WEBSITE:** SigSauer.com

**MSRP:** \$835

**Action:** DAO

**Caliber:** .40 SW

**Capacity:** 7+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.6 inches

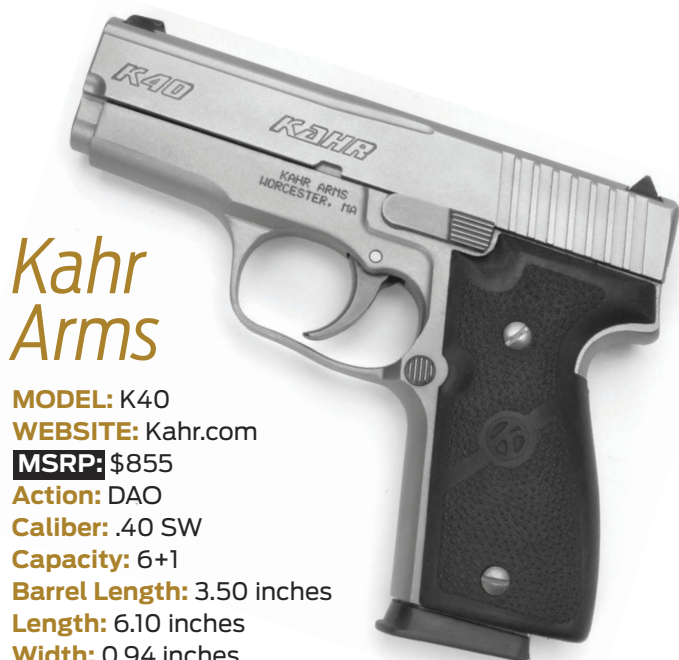
**Length:** 6.6 inches

**Width:** 1.2 inches

**Height:** 5.1 inches

**Weight:** 30 ounces

**Features:** Double-strike capable for hard primers, Nitron finish on slide for durability, DAO trigger is law-enforcement friendly



## Kahr Arms

**MODEL:** K40

**WEBSITE:** Kahr.com

**MSRP:** \$855

**Action:** DAO

**Caliber:** .40 SW

**Capacity:** 6+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.50 inches

**Length:** 6.10 inches

**Width:** 0.94 inches

**Height:** 4.55 inches

**Weight:** 26.0 ounces

**Features:** White bar-dot sights, full-finger grip for many hands, very narrow, tight tolerances for accuracy

## PRICE RANGE \$900 & Up



## Kimber

**MODEL:**

ULTRA CRIMSON CARRY II

**WEBSITE:** KimberAmerica.com

**MSRP:** \$1,206

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 7+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.00 inches

**Length:** 6.80 inches

**Width:** 1.30 inches

**Height:** 4.75 inches

**Weight:** 25.0 ounces

**Features:** Match-grade barrel, snag-free sights, Crimson Trace Lasergrips standard



## Sig Sauer, Inc.

**MODEL:** P226

**WEBSITE:** SigSauer.com

**MSRP:** \$1,015

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 15+1

**Barrel Length:** 4.40 inches

**Length:** 7.70 inches

**Width:** 1.50 inches

**Height:** 5.50 inches

**Weight:** 2.13 pounds

**Features:** Decocking lever, ergonomic controls for one-hand operation, steel construction, wide range of custom features available

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## Heckler & Koch



**MODEL:** P2000SK

**WEBSITE:** HK-USA.com

**MSRP:** \$992

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 10+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.26 inches

**Length:** 6.40 inches

**Weight:** 24.0 ounces

**Features:** Three-dot sights, interchangeable backstraps, integral accessory rail, multiple trigger/control types



## COMPACT SEMIS

### Sig Sauer, Inc.



**MODEL:** M11A1

**WEBSITE:** SigSauer.com

**MSRP:** \$1,125

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 15+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.9 inches

**Length:** 7.1 inches

**Width:** 1.5 inches

**Height:** 5.4 inches

**Weight:** 32 ounces

**Features:** SIGLITE night sights, decocker, civilian version of the Navy-issue sidearm, steel construction

### Springfield Armory



**MODEL:** CHAMPION OPERATOR LIGHTWEIGHT 45 ACP

**WEBSITE:** Springfield-Armory.com

**MSRP:** \$949

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 7+1

**Barrel Length:** 4.0 inches

**Length:** 8.5 inches

**Weight:** 31 ounces

**Features:** Commander-length barrel and full-size magazine, fully supported ramped bull barrel, integral accessory rail, and beavertail safety and Novak low-mount 3-dot tritium sights



## Springfield Armory

**MODEL:** RANGE OFFICER'S COMPACT

**WEBSITE:** Springfield-Armory.com

**MSRP:** \$1,247

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 6+1

**Barrel Length:** 4.0 inches

**Length:** 6.5 inches

**Width:** 1.3 inches

**Height:** 5.0 inches

**Weight:** 26 ounces

**Features:** "High-hand" beavertail grip safety, subcompact design, steel frame



## Para-USA, LLC.

**MODEL:** LDA Officer Crimson Trace

**WEBSITE:** Para-USA.com

**MSRP:** \$1,225

**Action:** DA

**Caliber:** 9mm & .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 18+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.5 inches

**Length:** 5.5 inches

**Weight:** 30 ounces

**Features:** Stainless steel frame and slide, full-length guide rod, Crimson Trace Lasergrips, excellent concealed carry gun



## Colt

**MODEL:** XSE SERIES MODEL O

**WEBSITE:** Colt.com

**MSRP:** \$944

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 8+1

**Barrel Length:** 4.25 inches

**Length:** 7.75 inches

**Height:** 5.50 inches

**Weight:** 34.0 ounces

**Features:** Adjustable trigger, extended and ambidextrous frame-mounted safety, extended beavertail safety with palm swell



# TACTICS, TECHNIQUES & **PROCEDURES**

*Direct Measures Provides a  
Full Curriculum for Concealed Carry*

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ALON STIVI



PHOTO BY TKT

Alon Stivi is the CEO of Direct Measures, a Southern California-based executive protection firm.

Alon Stivi has trained a number of law enforcement agencies across the nation, and his classes are also available across the nation.



*“ We are responsible for every round we fire, and we should use deadly force only as a last resort survival option. ”*

**W**e are all born with a survival instinct. This primal drive guides some of us into owning a firearm and carrying it for self-protection. Over time our survival instinct can evolve into a desire to protect others. This often occurs following marriage or the birth of the first child. For those who choose a career in the military, law enforcement or security, protecting others is an inner calling.

The transformation from a survivor mindset to a protector mindset is challenging. Developing the protector mindset means extending your protective sense and situational awareness outside yourself to include others. It also requires overriding the instinct of self-preservation for the sake of others.

Not everyone achieves this level of dedication and sacrifice. Few have the training and capabilities to do

so effectively with a firearm. For those who do pursue this, there are many factors to consider.

## **1 THREAT CONTROL**

Some gun owners are under the false impression that they may be able to use their sidearm as a threat to “control” a dangerous situation. This misconception is based on the assumption that law enforcement use-of-force principles apply to civilian self-defense.

Sworn personnel draw their sidearm, in the line of duty and under the color of authority, as part of the force continuum and when all other options have been exhausted. Displaying a handgun on the street without wearing a uniform and a badge can prove to be a fatal mistake. A concealed handgun should never be drawn without the intent to use it.



Going from a survivor mindset to a protector mindset is challenging, and there are a number of important key factors that must be understood.



#### AVAILABLE CLASSES

DMI's Firearms Defensive Training entails a number of classes, including Practical Pistol Protection and Public Protection: Concealed Carry.

#### MORE INFORMATION

**COMPANY** Direct Measures

**WEB** [DirectMeasures.com](http://DirectMeasures.com) and  
[DignitaryProtectionTraining.com](http://DignitaryProtectionTraining.com)

*“Those who do not know how to respond do nothing and become victims.”*

## 2 DEADLY FORCE

We must fully understand the responsibility of using deadly force.

Using a concealed handgun to protect others in public could have dire unintended consequences, such as the injury or death of innocent bystanders. We are responsible for every round we fire, and we should use deadly force only as a last resort survival option.

Professional bodyguards always avoid resorting to the use of force whenever possible. When protecting others, we are limited by the capabilities of those under our protection.

For example, you may be fit enough to escape out of a window on a second floor or outrun a gang of thugs in a dark alley, but if your spouse or children are with you, these options are no longer feasible.

Similarly, if you are protecting a middle-aged, out of shape client at a corporate party, you cannot plan to punch your way out of a bar fight, if it happens.

The Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs)

used to protect ourselves must be modified to protect others and they will vary based on the circumstances.

## 3 CONFINED VS. OPEN

There is a clear tactical distinction between protecting others in a confined space (like protecting your family from a home intruder) and protecting others in public, and the primary distinction has to do with response time.

When at home or in a structure, we can be proactive because there are early warning systems (such as an alarm, cameras, a canine, etc.) that will buy us time to make ready. We can relocate the protected, take a position of advantage and have pre-determined lines of fire and cover (similar to setting up a military ambush).

By contrast, when protecting others from a sudden attack outdoor or in public we are reactive, and reaction is always late. Furthermore, because most armed confrontation last merely a few seconds, we

*“The Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) used to protect ourselves must be modified to protect others and they will vary based on the circumstances.”*

have to make critical decisions and act under extreme duress.

It is not enough to know how to draw and shoot from concealment when protecting others under such trying circumstances. Specific shooting skills, such as shooting on the move, one-hand shooting and one-hand reloading must also be acquired. We must have a clear set of TTPs that include specific engagement techniques, protective formations, movement to cover, evacuation plans, follow through and more.

To be effective, these TTPs must be practiced repeatedly to the point of becoming automatic (preferably when with the person/s we intend to protect).

### PROPER TRAINING

When caught by surprise and under duress, we resort to the way we trained. Those who do not know how to respond do nothing and become victims. Direct Measures International offers professional training in Being Your Own Bodyguard and Dignitary Protection Specialists courses nationwide.

Be prepared. 

*Alon Stivi is the CEO of Direct Measures International and a leading authority on security, counterterrorism, travel safety and violence management.*

*He is a certified law enforcement trainer who emigrated from Israel after serving in an elite unit of the Israel Defense Forces. He taught close combat tactics to the US Navy SEAL Instructors and has protected Fortune 500 executives and dignitaries worldwide.*




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## FULL-SIZED SEMI-AUTOMATICS

# KING OF THE HILL

*Full-Size Semis Offer Power, Capacity and Maximum Effective Range*



PHOTO BY SPRINGFIELD ARMORY

**I**n concealed carry, they are king of the hill. They are the full-size semis.

They usually offer features such as power, ammunition capacity, a longer sight radius, higher velocity and muzzle energy for a given cartridge due to their longer barrel, and increased maximum effective range. Additionally, because they are usually built from steel and are not alloy guns, they give longer life when shooting large amounts of full power loads. They also lend themselves to serving double duty, not only as carry guns, but also for the many shooting games available for the full-sized guns such as IPSC and others.

Full-sized semi autos have their challenges when trying to carry concealed, especially in the warmer weather when people tend to dress lighter. Fortunately, there are many carry options available for the full-sized semi autos that make this less of an issue. Look over the selections we have assembled in these pages, we are sure you'll find one that works for you.

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$199-\$499**

## Stoeger Industries



**MODEL:** COUGAR  
**WEBSITE:** [StoegerIndustries.com](http://StoegerIndustries.com)  
**MSRP:** \$469  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .40 SW  
**Capacity:** 11+1  
**Barrel Length:** 3.5 inches  
**Length:** 7.0 inches  
**Width:** 1.3 inches  
**Weight:** 32 ounces

**Features:** Ambidextrous safety/decocking lever, rotating barrel, available as well in 9mm and .45 ACP

## CZ

**MODEL:** P-07 DUTY  
**WEBSITE:** [CZ-USA.com](http://CZ-USA.com)  
**MSRP:** \$487  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** 9mm  
**Capacity:** 16+1  
**Barrel Length:** 3.8 inches  
**Length:** 7.3 inches  
**Width:** 1.5 inches  
**Height:** 5.1 inches  
**Weight:** 27 ounces



**Features:** Safety/decocker interchangeable with standard safety, high capacity, designed to meet police defensive requirements

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$499-\$599**

## Steyr Arms

**MODEL:** C9-A1  
**WEBSITE:** [SteyrArms.com](http://SteyrArms.com)  
**MSRP:** \$560  
**Action:** DAO  
**Caliber:** 9mm  
**Capacity:** 17+1  
**Barrel Length:** 3.60 inches  
**Length:** 6.70 inches  
**Weight:** 25.6 ounces



**Features:** Adjustable 3-dot sights, low barrel axis, integral accessory rail, trigger safety



# FULL-SIZED SEMI-AUTOMATICS

## Springfield

**MODEL:** XD TACTICAL 5" .45ACP  
**WEBSITE:** Springfield-Armory.com  
**MSRP:** \$562 (street)  
**Action:** STR  
**Caliber:** .45 ACP  
**Capacity:** 13+1  
**Barrel Length:** 5.0 inches  
**Length:** 8.3 inches  
**Height:** 5.8 inches  
**Weight:** 32 ounces  
**Features:** Grip safety, trigger safety, outstanding capacity, snag-free rear sight



## CZ

**MODEL:** SP-01 PHANTOM  
**WEBSITE:** CZ-USA.com  
**MSRP:** \$595  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** 9mm  
**Capacity:** 18+1  
**Barrel Length:** 4.7 inches  
**Length:** 8.2 inches  
**Width:** 1.5 inches  
**Height:** 5.8 inches  
**Weight:** 29 ounces  
**Features:** Polymer frame, accessory rail



## Smith & Wesson

**MODEL:** M&P45  
**WEBSITE:** Smith-Wesson.com  
**MSRP:** \$599  
**Action:** STR  
**Caliber:** .45 ACP  
**Capacity:** 10+1  
**Barrel Length:** 4.5 inches  
**Length:** 7.5 inches  
**Width:** 1.3 inches  
**Height:** 5.5 inches  
**Weight:** 28 ounces



**Features:** Interchangeable backstraps, white dot low-profile tactical sights, designed for duty and defensive carry

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$599-\$799**

*CZ*

**MODEL:**

85 COMBAT DUAL TONE

**WEBSITE:** CZ-USA.com

**MSRP:** \$641

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 16+1

**Barrel Length:** 4.72 inches

**Length:** 8.11 inch

**Weight:** 35.36 ounces

**Features:** Ambidextrous version of CZ75,  
reversible magazine release, improved trigger pull



*Glock*

**MODEL:** G22

**WEBSITE:** Glock.com

**MSRP:** \$641

**Action:** STR

**Caliber:** .40 SW

**Capacity:** 15+1

**Barrel Length:** 4.5 inches

**Length:** 8.0 inches

**Width:** 1.2 inches

**Height:** 5.4 inches

**Weight:** 23 ounces

**Features:** White outline rear sight,  
polymer frame for light weight,  
combat trigger guard, double  
stack magazine



# FULL-SIZED SEMI-AUTOMATICS



## Taurus

**MODEL:** 1911FS  
**WEBSITE:** TaurusUSA.com  
**MSRP:** \$684  
**Action:** SA  
**Caliber:** .45 ACP  
**Capacity:** 8+1  
**Barrel Length:** 5.00 inches  
**Length:** 8.50 inches  
**Width:** 1.50 inches  
**Height:** 5.45 inches  
**Weight:** 38.0 ounces

**Features:** Novak sights, a lightened aluminum trigger, Taurus Security System which provides a secure way to keep your firearm in a ready to go posture, while keeping the pistol from being used by anyone else

## Walther Arms

**MODEL:** P99  
**WEBSITE:** WaltherArms.com  
**MSRP:** \$679  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .40 SW  
**Capacity:** 12+1  
**Barrel Length:** 4.1 inches  
**Length:** 7.2 inches  
**Width:** 1.3 inches  
**Height:** 5.3 inches  
**Weight:** 26 ounces



**Features:** Safety/decocker button, ambidextrous mag release built into trigger guard, three-dot adjustable combat sights

## Glock

**MODEL:** G17  
**WEBSITE:** Glock.com  
**MSRP:** \$690  
**Action:** STR  
**Caliber:** 9mm  
**Capacity:** 17+1  
**Barrel Length:** 4.5 inches  
**Length:** 8.0 inches  
**Width:** 1.2 inches  
**Height:** 5.4 inches  
**Weight:** 22 ounces



**Features:** White outline rear sight, polymer frame for light weight, combat trigger guard, double stack magazine

## Kahr Arms

**MODEL:** TP45

**WEBSITE:** Kahr.com

**MSRP:** \$697

**Action:** DAO

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 7+1

**Barrel Length:** 4.0 inches

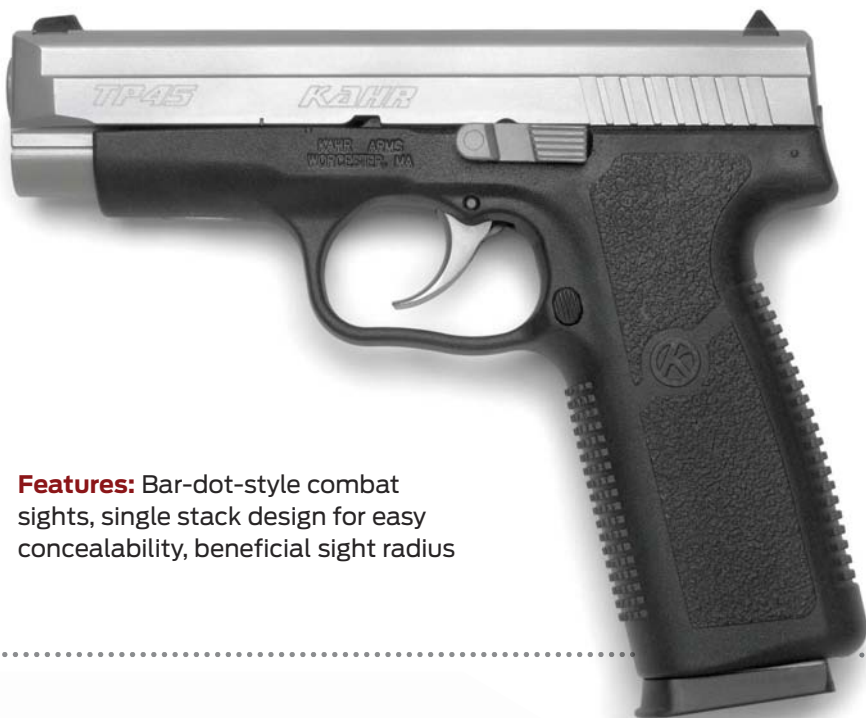
**Length:** 6.6 inches

**Width:** 1.0 inch

**Height:** 5.3 inches

**Weight:** 23 ounces

**Features:** Bar-dot-style combat sights, single stack design for easy concealability, beneficial sight radius



## Beretta

**MODEL:** 92FS

**WEBSITE:** berettausa.com

**MSRP:** \$682

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 15+1

**Barrel Length:** 5.0 inches

**Length:** 8.5 inches

**Width:** 1.5 inch

**Height:** 5.4 inches

**Weight:** 33.3 ounces

**Features:** Standard issue pistol for U.S. Armed forces, DA/SA action with loaded chamber indicator, reversible magazine catch, ambidextrous thumb safeties, available in stainless steel (92FS Inox)



# FULL-SIZED SEMI-AUTOMATICS

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$799 & Up**

*Browning*



**MODEL:** HI-POWER MK III

**WEBSITE:** Browning.com

**MSRP:** \$1,059

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 13+1

**Barrel Length:** 4.625 inches

**Features:** Ambidextrous safety, integral thumb rests, John Browning's last 1911-style design, and arguably the second-best single action semi-automatic handgun ever designed

*Sig Sauer, Inc.*

**MODEL:** P226 MK25

**WEBSITE:** SigSauer.com

**MSRP:** \$1,142

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 15+1

**Barrel Length:** 4.4 inches

**Length:** 7.7 inches

**Width:** 1.5 inches

**Height:** 5.5 inches

**Weight:** 34 ounces

**Features:** Decocking lever, anti-corrosion coatings on controls, anchor engraving, SIGLITE night sights





## Sig Sauer, Inc.

**MODEL:** P229 EXTREME

**WEBSITE:** SigSauer.com

**MSRP:** \$1,213

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 15+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.9 inches

**Length:** 7.6 inches

**Weight:** 32 ounces

**Features:** SIGLITE night sights, Hogue G-10 grips, short-reset trigger, accessory rail



## STI International

**MODEL:** MARAUDER

**WEBSITE:** STIGuns.com

**MSRP:** \$2,621

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** 9x19

**Capacity:** Depends on magazine used

**Barrel Length:** 5.0 inches

**Length:** 8.5 inches

**Width:** 1.5 inches

**Weight:** 36.2 ounces

**Features:** Competition pistol designed for 3 gun matches. Polymer frame and carbon steel slide, fiber optic front sight and fully adjustable rear. 

# UNSURPASSED CAPACITY

## CZ P-09

With 19+1 in its flush fitting magazine, the P-09 can't be beat when it comes to 9mm service pistols.



### MAIN FEATURES

- Interchangeable backstraps
- Convertible, safety or decocker
- Omega trigger system
- Polymer frame with 1913 Picatinny rail
- 19+1 9mm, 15+1 .40 S&W (P-09)
- Two magazines
- 5 year warranty



**CZ-USA**  
PROTECT • HUNT • COMPETE

[www.cz-usa.com](http://www.cz-usa.com)



# REVOLVERS VS. **SEMI-AUTOS**

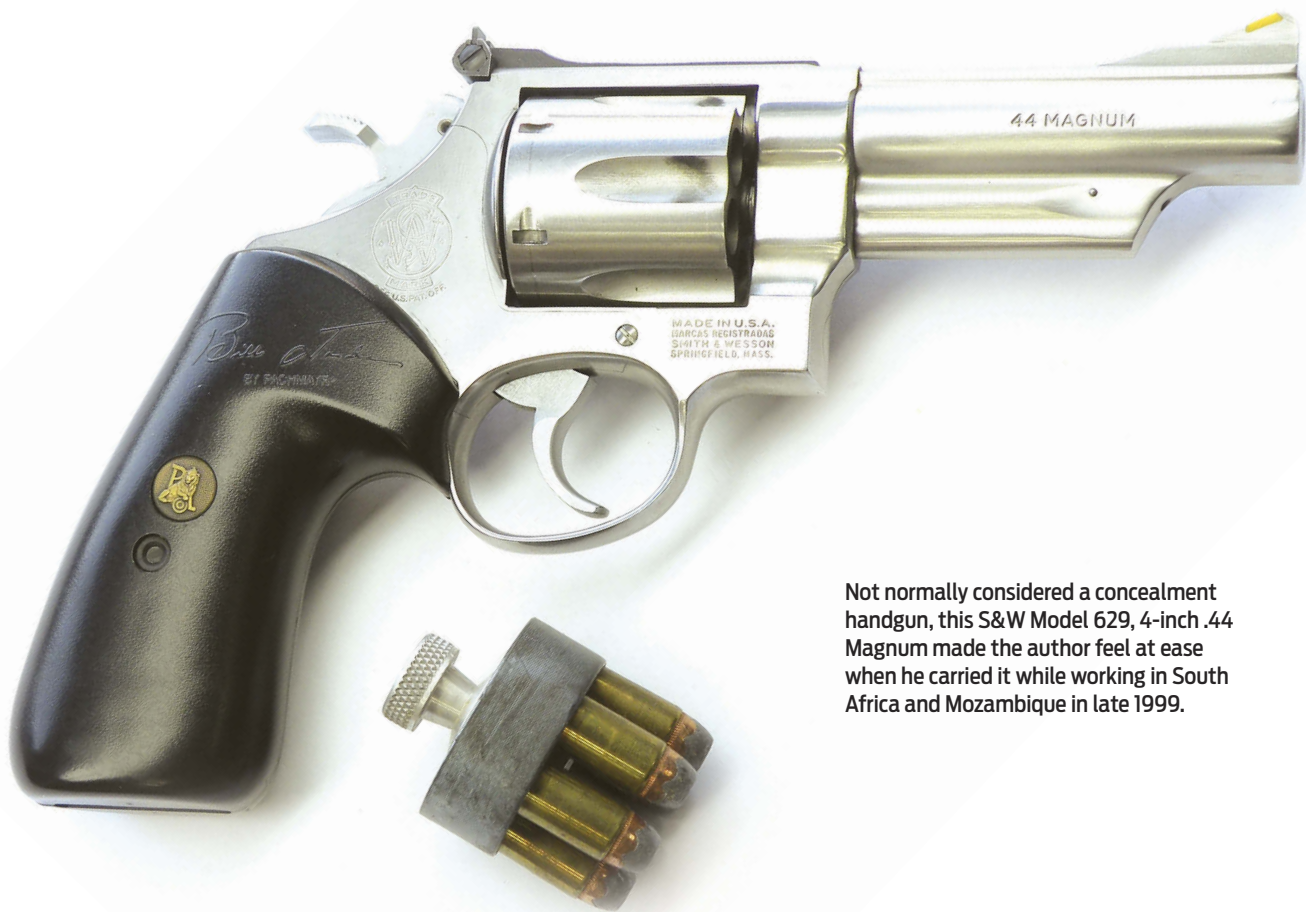
The Pros and Cons of Each for Concealed Carry

BY PAUL HANTKE



J-frame Smith & Wesson can be had with 2-, 3-, or 4-inch barrels, meeting any concealed carry needs for a revolver.

PHOTOS BY PAUL HANTKE



Not normally considered a concealment handgun, this S&W Model 629, 4-inch .44 Magnum made the author feel at ease when he carried it while working in South Africa and Mozambique in late 1999.

*“ The .22 Long Rifle gets rejected by many shooters as possessing insufficient power ..., but the reality is that just having a gun on your person ... will almost always put you in a decided advantage should the situation arise. ”*

**N**ot a lot has changed in 30 years. When I began my career as a gun writer almost three decades ago, a popular topic was revolvers versus semi-autos. Back then, the discussion was centered on duty handguns as this was right in the midst of the transition from wheelguns to semi-autos by police forces and other government law enforcement agencies across the country. Because the revolver had been the predominant handgun in these circles forever, the idea of moving away from that paradigm to the world of self-loaders was met with a lot of resistance.

Today, so many years later, virtually all law enforcement organizations use the semi-auto, but the subject has come up again for the average

citizen with the relaxation of concealed carry laws in the USA.

Let's take a look at the two designs, starting with the revolver because it was first on the scene.

## REVOLVERS

There are dozens of revolvers available in a wide selection of calibers today, from mini-revolvers in “sub-calibers” to chopped down six-guns with lots of knockdown power that require you to carefully “dress around” their bulk.

The first category are mini-revolvers from Freedom Arms and North American Arms. These are simple to conceal, but they are best assigned to a last-ditch role due to the fact that they are





1911s come with Government, Commander, or Officer's Model top ends.



Like any mid-sized handgun, the S&W Model 66 is at the edge of concealability, but it can be accomplished with proper carry gear and cover garments.

*“This new .327 Federal elevates the .32 caliber from ‘better than nothing’ to serious medicine.”*

chambered for low-powered cartridges like the .22 LR. This class of firearms also takes extra effort to handle and fire.

North American Arms has introduced their Sidewinder model, which sports a swing-out cylinder that is much more convenient to reload than pulling the cylinder pin and removing the entire cylinder to load and unload.

Then there are .22 Magnum guns available that step up the hitting power of the little guns, but again, these revolvers are not the first choice for most.

Small-frame revolvers in different barrel lengths and calibers have been offered since revolvers were first developed, and today, Smith & Wesson, Ruger, Taurus, Charter Arms, Rossi and others all have an assortment of revolvers with barrels from two to four inches long and in a variety of calibers.

The .22 Long Rifle gets rejected by many shooters as possessing insufficient power to be considered as a viable defensive round, but the reality is that just

having a gun on your person when involved in a violent confrontation will almost always put you in a decided advantage, should the situation arise. You won't knock a person down with a .22, but you can dramatically perforate their vital areas multiple times to stop a fight, and a .22 Magnum loading is a big step up in hitting power without the attendant recoil and muzzle blast associated with a modern centerfire cartridge.

The .32 was only available in a short and long loads until the mid 1990s when the H&R .32 Magnum came out and caught everyone's attention, and that has happened again with the recent introduction of the .327 Federal.

This new .327 Federal elevates the .32 caliber from “better than nothing” to serious medicine, and it provides for an extra cartridge on board compared to what's available in .38 Special with most small revolvers (six rounds in the chamber versus five).

Ruger and S&W offer a good selection of conceal-

The Freedom Arms mini-revolver is about as tiny as it gets, but some gun (and five shots) is better than no gun!



able revolvers in the .327 Federal chambering, and either manufacturer would be an excellent choice. The .38 Special and .357 Magnum can be found in small revolvers from different companies, and while the standard pressure .38 Special is manageable, most shooters find the .38 Special Plus P and .357 Magnum rounds less than comfortable to shoot from the smaller but more concealable models.

Also, the shorter barrels contribute to elevated muzzle blast, concussion and muzzle flash along with increased recoil — none of which is conducive to fast and accurate shooting.

I currently carry the S&W Model 442 — a light-weight two-inch barreled revolver with a shrouded hammer, rendering it double-action only, and load it with Federal Nyclad 125 grain, plastic-coated solid-lead hollow points, aptly named the “Chief’s Special Load.”

Yes, there are more revolver selections in the larger calibers, such as .44 Special/.44 Magnum and .45

ACP, but these belly guns tend to run a good deal larger than handguns in the previously mentioned calibers. This is not to say that one must restrict themselves to a smaller gun for efficient concealed carry, as larger six-guns will also serve well with proper carry gear and wardrobe.

## SEMI-AUTOMATICS

Semi-autos for concealed carry represent another and exponentially larger field of choices, as the little self-loading “pocket pistol” has been an international mainstay for over 100 years, starting way back at the beginning of the 20th Century when a person could pick from a wide selection of pistols in various calibers. Many calibers are available for self-loaders, from the .22 rimfire and/or the .25 ACP, we go to the .32 ACP, .380 ACP (9mm Kurtz), and 9mm Luger (Parabellum).

There are some other less well-known variants sandwiched in there, and smaller pistols in .45 ACP





1911s come in different sizes. The blued gun is a hybrid with an Officer's Model top end on a lightweight full-sized frame from DL Sports (DLSports.com). The hard-chromed gun is a custom Government 1911 from Terry Tussey.



This hybrid 1911/Officer's Model pistol is carried with 200 grain Federal Expanding FMJ ammo that clock at 960 FPS from the short top end.

## HEAD TO HEAD

*The Advantages of the DAO and the Semi*

### DOUBLE-ACTION REVOLVERS

The advantages of the double-action revolver are that while they are safe when carried loaded, they are always ready to go without manipulating a safety, you can easily do a visual check to make sure it is loaded, and it will fire any type of ammunition that will fit in the cylinder — even snake shot.

### SEMI-AUTOS

The semi-auto typically has advantages over the revolver in that they are slimmer because of the revolver's cylinder, many of the semi-autos carry more ammunition than the average revolver, and even considering the use of revolver speedloaders, the magazine-fed semi-auto is usually faster to reload.

were't really a choice for a few decades until the Star PD came on the scene and prompted others to copy them. The .357 SIG, .40 S&W, and .45 GAP are three other serious calibers that can be had in smaller semi-autos, and these, along with the .45 ACP are all very effective fight stoppers.

Walther offered the PP and PPK, Mauser had their HSc, and again, various European manufacturers all came up with small, concealable semi-autos in the calibers discussed above. Stateside we had models from Colt and Browning carried in our coat pockets.

Like today, there were both single- and double-action guns in circulation from the start. The SA guns had safeties that blocked the trigger and/or hammer, and the DAO guns used a de-cocking safety that also pivoted a hammer block in front of the hammer to insure that it could not contact the cartridge primer until the pistol was moved off Safe.

Nowadays the single-action, single/double-action, and double-action-only pistols come from different manufacturers in a variety of frame sizes that dictate round capacity, ease of concealment and shootability.

Another twist on all these variations is

## THE AUTHOR'S 3 CHOICES

**1** A Colt Mustang Pocketlite that has been customized by handgun guru Terry Tussey

**2** A custom 1911 hybrid of a lightweight Commander frame wearing a short Officer's Model top end and three-inch barrel built by Dave Lauck at DL Sports. (This configuration is now available over the counter from Kimber)

**3** A box-stock Beretta Model 92FS



The custom Mustang Pocketlite from Terry Tussey is carried with either Winchester or Hornady 90 grain JHPs.



The Author's Beretta 92 is fed 125 grain HP's from any one of four manufacturers and it is reliable and accurate with all four.

*“The advantages of the double-action revolver are that while they are safe when carried loaded they are still always ready to go.”*

that pistols are available with and without external hammers, and the newer, striker-fired guns are quickly gaining in popularity as they have evolved into reliable, accurate and easily carried guns.

Drawbacks to the semi-auto are that they are often ammo-sensitive and may not function with certain bullet types or loadings, they feed from a magazine that can become damaged or lost, and you must manipulate the gun to inspect the magazine and chamber to determine the current status of the gun — loaded/unloaded magazine, empty chamber, or “one up the spout.”

Some companies have addressed this by offering striker status indicators and loaded chamber indicators with which the ready status of the handgun can be both seen and felt.

## PERSONAL CHOICES

That's a quick look at both sides of the revolver/semi-auto coin, and like always, you'll have to consider how much firepower you reasonably need and what will be necessary to comfortably but efficiently conceal it upon your person.

Once you clearly define those parameters, the choice will become easy for you. **CC**

*Paul Hantke has been a shooter for more than 60 years, including service in the U.S. Marine Corps and a tour of Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. His work has appeared in virtually every major firearms journal, and he has been a contributor or staff editor for Gun World magazine for more than 25 years.*

## MORE INFORMATION

**WHO** Terry Tussey  
**WEB** [TTussey45.com](http://TTussey45.com)

**WHO** Colt  
**WEB** [Colt.com](http://Colt.com)

**WHO** Dave Lauck at DL Sports  
**WEB** [DLSports.com](http://DLSports.com)

## REVOLVERS VS. SEMIS

### The Disadvantages

#### REVOLVERS

- Some are hard to handle
- Insufficient power with the .22 LR
- Some may have elevated muzzle blast and with increased recoil

#### SEMI-AUTOS

- Can be ammo sensitive; may not function with certain bullet types
- The magazine may become damaged or lost



## 1911 PISTOLS

# THE PREEMINENT 1911

*This Distinguished Single Action Auto  
is Still a Great Choice*



PHOTO BY CABOT FIREARMS

**J**ohn Browning's 1911 design has been written about extensively since it first made its debut in the early part of the 20th century, and for good reason. It has been used with great success in every conflict that the U.S. has been involved in, and the characteristics that make it such a great handgun for military confrontations, make it a superior tool for civilian conflicts as well.

Powerful, accurate, and easy for inexperienced shooters to manipulate, the single action autoloader from John Browning is also the

most customized handgun ever produced. Entire cottage industries have sprung up to fill the need of tactical and competitive shooters around the world, as shooters pushed the envelope of how the pistol was originally designed. This phenomenon has transformed the pistol from an excellent combat handgun into a combat handgun design that has virtually no peers.

From the ultra-compact to the full-sized version, we showcase several models in our Buyer's Guide that are sure to meet any handgunner's needs.

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$450-\$1,000**

## Armscor

**MODEL:** M1911A1 TACTICAL  
**WEBSITE:** ArmscorUSA.com  
**MSRP:** \$460  
**Action:** SA  
**Caliber:** .45 ACP  
**Capacity:** 8+1  
**Barrel Length:** 5 inches  
**Length:** 8.56 inches  
**Weight:** 45.92 ounces



**Features:** Three-dot low profile night sights, integral accessory rail, ambidextrous safety

## American Classic

**MODEL:** CLASSIC COMMANDER  
**WEBSITE:** AmericanClassic1911.com  
**MSRP:** \$600  
**Action:** SA  
**Caliber:** .45 ACP  
**Capacity:** 7+1  
**Barrel Length:** 4.25 inches  
**Length:** 7.5 inches  
**Width:** 1.25 inches  
**Height:** 5.5 inches  
**Weight:** 35 ounces



**Features:** Extended beavertail grip safety, skeletonized trigger and hammer, custom features standard



## American Classic

**MODEL:** OFFICER'S MODEL  
**WEBSITE:** AmericanClassic1911.com  
**MSRP:** \$684  
**Action:** SA  
**Caliber:** .45 ACP  
**Capacity:** 7+1  
**Barrel Length:** 3.5 inches  
**Length:** 7.25 inches  
**Weight:** 32.45 ounces  
**Features:** Novak-style rear combat sight, super-compact officer-size design, lowered and flared ejection port



# 1911 PISTOLS

## Remington



**MODEL:** 1911 R1  
**WEBSITE:** Remington.com  
**MSRP:** \$729  
**Caliber:** .45 ACP  
**Capacity:** 7 + 1  
**Barrel Length:** 5 inches  
**Length:** 8.5 inches  
**Weight:** 38.5 ounces

**Features:** Satin black oxide, double diamond walnut grips, 3-dot sights: dovetailed front and rear sights

## Springfield Armory



**MODEL:** RANGE OFFICERS  
**WEBSITE:** springfield-armory.com  
**MSRP:** \$849  
**Action:** SA  
**Caliber:** .45 ACP  
**Capacity:** 8+1  
**Barrel Length:** 5 inches  
**Length:** 8.7 inches  
**Width:** 1.4 inches  
**Height:** 5.5 inches  
**Weight:** 40 ounces

**Features:** Fully adjustable rear sight, match-grade barrel, beavertail safety

## Sig Sauer



**MODEL:** 1911 TRADITIONAL RTSS  
**WEBSITE:** SigSauer.com  
**MSRP:** \$949  
**Action:** SA  
**Caliber:** .45 ACP  
**Capacity:** 8+1  
**Barrel Length:** 5 inches  
**Length:** 8.7 inches  
**Width:** 1.4 inches  
**Height:** 5.5 inches  
**Weight:** 42 ounces  
**Features:** Trijicon adjustable night sights, extended ergonomic controls, attractive style



## Para USA

**MODEL:** WARTHOG STAINLESS  
**WEBSITE:** Para-USA.com  
**MSRP:** \$999  
**Action:** SA  
**Caliber:** .45 ACP  
**Capacity:** 10+1  
**Barrel Length:** 3 inches  
**Length:** 6.5 inches  
**Width:** 1.3 inches  
**Height:** 4.5 inches  
**Weight:** 24 ounces

**Features:** Stainless slide and frame, fiber optic front sight, extended beavertail grip safety, 10-round magazine capable, flush-fitting lower-round-count magazines for discrete carry

## Colt

**MODEL:**

DEFENDER 7002D

**WEBSITE:** ColtsMfg.com

**MSRP:** \$1,015

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 8+1

**Barrel Length:** 3 inches

**Length:** 6.75 inches

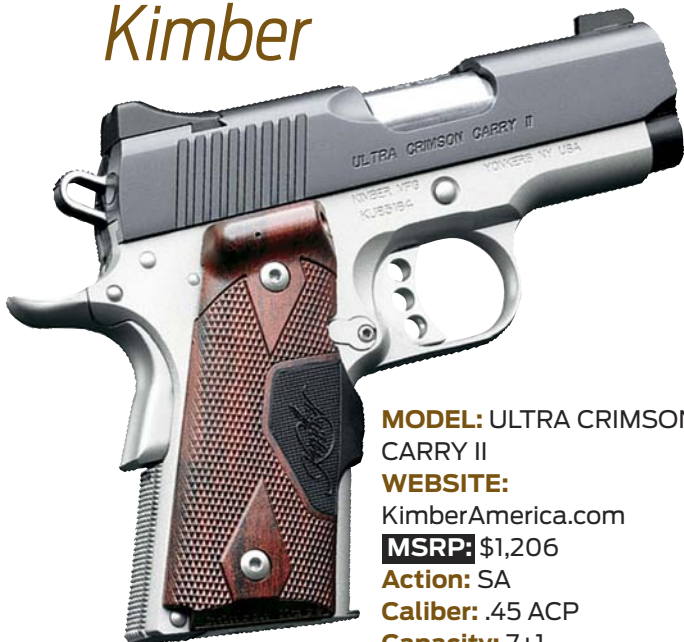
**Width:** 1.3 inches

**Weight:** 25 ounces

**Features:** Novak low-mount carry sights, large capacity for size, 9mm caliber in a 1911-type frame



## Kimber



**MODEL:** ULTRA CRIMSON CARRY II

**WEBSITE:**

KimberAmerica.com

**MSRP:** \$1,206

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 7+1

**Barrel Length:** 3 inches

**Length:** 6.8 inches

**Width:** 1.3 inches

**Height:** 4.75 inches

**Weight:** 25 ounces

**Features:** Match-grade barrel, snag-free sights, Crimson Trace Lasergrips standard

# GUN WORLD

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[www.facebook.com/gunworldmagazine](http://www.facebook.com/gunworldmagazine)



# 1911 PISTOLS

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$1,000-\$2,000**

## Colt

**MODEL:** DEFENDER 7002D

**WEBSITE:** ColtsMfg.com

**MSRP:** \$1,015

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Capacity:** 8+1

**Barrel Length:** 3 inches

**Length:** 6.75 inches

**Width:** 1.3 inches

**Weight:** 25 ounces

**Features:** Novak low-mount carry sights, large capacity for size, 9mm caliber in a 1911-type frame



## STI

**MODEL:** OFF DUTY

**WEBSITE:** STIGuns.com

**MSRP:** \$1,243

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 8+1

**Barrel Length:** 3.24 inches

**Length:** 7 inches

**Weight:** 30.4 ounces

**Features:** 3-dot adjustable combat sights, checkered cocobolo grip panels, ramped bull barrel



## Sig Sauer



**MODEL:** 1911 CARRY SCORPION

**WEBSITE:** SigSauer.com

**MSRP:** \$1,213

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 8+1

**Barrel Length:** 4.2 inches

**Length:** 7.7 inches

**Width:** 1.4 inches

**Height:** 5.5 inches

**Weight:** 35 ounces

**Features:** Low-profile night sights, Hogue G-10 grips, ambidextrous safety, accessory rail

## Colt

**MODEL:**

21st Century Commander

**WEBSITE:** Colt.com

**MSRP:** \$1,379

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 7 + 1

**Barrel Length:** 4.25 inches

**Weight:** 35 ounces

**Features:** Lightweight aluminum alloy, Colt beavertail grip safety, secure grip, Wiley Clapp Edition





# 1911 PISTOLS

## Smith & Wesson



**MODEL:** SW1911  
BOBTAIL CARRY

**WEBSITE:**  
Smith-Wesson.com

**MSRP:** \$1,539

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 8+1

**Barrel Length:** 4.25 inches

**Length:** 8 inches

**Width:** 1.3 inches

**Height:** 5.5 inches

**Weight:** 30 ounces

**Features:** Relieved slide, fish scale serrations,  
bobbled tail for increased concealability



## Kimber

**MODEL:**  
MASTER CARRY PRO

**WEBSITE:**  
KimberAmerica.com

**MSRP:** \$1,568

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 8+1

**Barrel Length:** 4 inches

**Length:** 7.7 inches

**Width:** 1.3 inches

**Height:** 5.25 inches

**Weight:** 28 ounces

**Features:** Crimson  
Trace Master Series  
Lasergrips, bobbled  
grip frame for con-  
cealment, aluminum  
match-grade trigger



## Kimber

**MODEL:**

TACTICAL ENTRY II

**WEBSITE:**

KimberAmerica.com

**MSRP:** \$1,490

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 8+1

**Barrel Length:** 5 inches

**Length:** 7.7 inches

**Width:** 1.3 inches

**Height:** 5.5 inches

**Weight:** 40 ounces

**Features:**

Match-grade barrel,  
low-profile sights,  
and Picatinney rail

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$2,000 & Up**

## Guncrafter Industries



**MODEL:** CCO

**WEBSITE:**

GuncrafterIndustries.com

**MSRP:** \$2,795

**Action:** SA

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 7+1

**Barrel Length:** 4.75 inches

**Length:** 8 inches

**Width:** 1.3 inches

**Height:** 5.5 inches

**Weight:** 33 ounces 

**Features:**

Tritium  
snag-free night  
sights, enlarged  
beavertail grip safety,  
custom fit & finish

## FIRING RANGE NOT REQUIRED



## UMAREX ACTION PISTOLS

With the extensive line of authentic Umarex action pistols, now you can train without traveling to the range. They are authentic in shape, weight, and feel, like their firearm counterparts, but use readily available, low cost ammunition.



See the selection here:  
[UmarexUSA.com/Concealed](http://UmarexUSA.com/Concealed)





# CONCEALED CARRY **HOLSTER TIPS**

The Basics and  
Beyond for Smart  
Holster Selection  
and Use

**BY PAUL HANTKE**

PHOTO BY SAFARILAND, INC.



1911's come in different sizes, but a well-fitted leather holster will hold the gun up and in tight.

**T**he first logical question that one should ask when discussing this subject is, "Do I need to use a holster 100% of the time when carrying a concealed handgun?"

The reasonable and well-thought out answer is "Yes," however there is a lot of temptation to ignore this advice.

### WHY NOT JUST POCKET IT?

For starters, many small handguns are actually called "pocket pistols," and are trim enough to be carried in everyday pants pockets, let alone the relatively enormous pockets of a jacket or overcoat that most people wear when the weather turns cold.

However, that does not automatically make it the



A good Kydex outside-the-belt holster for the smaller handguns will do the job with a proper cover garment.

*“The smaller guns especially lend themselves to an IWB set-up.”*

thing to do, even if it is more convenient than strapping on a holster.

First of all, the gun can change position when carried loose in a pocket and may not be properly situated for a draw when needed.

Second, unless you dedicate a pocket strictly for carry, the handgun is knocking around with dust, dirt and debris, coins, combs, pocketknives, and keys ... or some combination of all the elements above, depending on what you throw in that pocket with it.

### POCKET HOLSTERS

One way to mitigate this is to use a Pocket Holster, which is actually more of a pocket insert that is designed to hold the gun in its proper





This full-sized Government Model 1911 tucks away cleanly with an inside-the-waistband setup.



A .44 Magnum is not your average concealment handgun, but the author carried this one using the two holsters shown, while working in South Africa and Mozambique in late 1999.



One way to conceal a handgun is to camouflage it. The camo pouch is innocuous, but slow in action. The Day Planner is off-body carry and can be lost or stolen.

*“A hand-boned holster that has been form-fitted for a specific firearm is a marvel to use.”*

orientation for the draw and to help minimize “printing,” where the outline of the gun is visible through the pocket fabric.

### CAREFUL CARRY LOCATIONS

From there, let’s go to the predominant carry location – somewhere on the waist.

I’ll discuss this as a right-handed shooter, for left-handed shooters simply flip things around in your mind.

The Strong Side carry is on the waist at the dominant hand, or slightly behind that 3 or 9 o’clock position. The handgun will normally have little to no cant here, being configured in a “straight drop” orientation.

As the gun gets pushed around towards the back, a little forward cant of the holster helps, both in tucking the gun in tight for better concealment and also to facilitate a proper grip on the handgun for the draw.

This is my chosen technique because it affords good concealment with quick access to the gun, and you can turn 90 degrees to the threat so that you place your body between the threat and the gun. This allows you to use your other hand to ward off an assailant while still having an unfettered draw in a contact range encounter.

Going further around brings us to a Small of the Back carry, which is obviously the most stealthy when you are being surveyed from the front, but also creates its own issues.

I used the Small of the Back carry for a while, but abandoned it after being told more than once that my shirt or jacket had gotten behind the grip of my gun, leaving it exposed. This was coupled with the tendency to snag the gun when leaning back against an object or sitting in an open-back chair.

The only thing more embarrassing than having “your heat hanging out” is either having the chair come up with you when you stand or hearing a clattering noise and looking down to see a 1911 that looks just like yours skipping across the floor underneath you.



This little Colt Mustang Pocketlite has been spruced up by Terry Tussey (TTussey45.com) and when not in a pocket, is carried in this rig from Center of Mass (comholsters.com).



This crossdraw holster from Bianchi works well with a good cover garment, and this style of holster is well-suited to use if most of your time is spent in a vehicle.



The most important element to belt selection is to match its width to the holster slots. The sturdiest of belts will not give good performance if it is too thin for the holster slots.

Finally, coming clear around to a position on your weak side we are automatically forced into a cross-draw carry. This looks cool, but it is not.

First, you are presenting the firearm grip first to anyone standing in front of you, which could result in anything from curiosity to a fatal mistake.

Second, you must reach across your body to draw the gun. This is slower, it means that you must “paint” the room with your muzzle as you bring the handgun into firing position, and last but not least, in a close-range encounter your adversary can defeat your draw by trapping your arm against your body with a move as simple as a Bear Hug.

## HOLSTER DESIGN 101

Holsters designed for belt carry are way too numerous to list individually, but you will encounter three basic materials – nylon fabric, Kydex (a hard, impact-proof plastic), or leather. Some companies are also starting to offer hybrids, where they use

synthetics like Kydex for the holster, and leather for the paddle or sheath portion.

The ballistic nylon holster may be sewn with a contour to fit your gun, but it is essentially a pouch. The good news is that they are light, inexpensive, and quite durable, especially in wet or humid environments.

Kydex has become the new darling of many holster makers, and for some good reasons. It can be molded to closely fit the handgun with a shrink-fit (this can be an issue if the holster gets very hot, at which point it will shrink some more and no longer accept the gun). It is also impervious to virtually all climatic conditions, with the exception of the caution about heat shrinkage. Kydex is also relatively cheaper than a hand-tooled leather holster.

Speaking of leather, there are still legions of shooters that will have nothing but the look, feel, and smell of leather when it comes to their carry gear.



It can be tough to make sense out of the pile of holsters that are available today.



### **DON'T FORGET THE BELT**

The last item to go with the holster selection is a sturdy and properly-sized belt. It needs to be somewhat thick and matched in size to the holster slots for the best performance.



A full-sized Beretta nestles quite nicely in a Kydex belt holster.

I am not that adamant on the subject, but I will admit to a deep appreciation for well-made leather goods of all kinds, and that includes holsters and other carry gear.

Leather holsters can be as simple as the ballistic nylon pouch that is merely sewn to match the contours of the handgun or they can be a real work of art.

A hand-boned holster that has been form-fitted for a specific firearm is a marvel to use. The gun drops in easily, but once in it resists gravity to hold on to that gun when inverted. Add a safety tab and the gun goes nowhere until that tab is released.

Cattle leather, and the hides of other

This tiny little Freedom Arms mini-revolver needs no holster and slips into the watch pocket of your jeans.



*“With proper care a good leather holster will last a lifetime.”*

animals are an exquisite medium for the talented craftsman, and besides the perfect fit possible with these materials they also offer a dizzying array of textures and colors to complement your sidearm.

Every style of holster you can imagine is available in these natural materials, and with proper care a good leather holster will last a lifetime, and more. I personally own old holsters that were my father's and others from before the turn of the century that still give good service.

### IN OR OUT?

The last question to answer with a concealment waistband holster is; Inside (IWB) or Outside (OWB) carry?

The smaller guns especially lend themselves to an IWB set-up, but even the largest handguns can be carried this way with properly sized pants and upper cover garments. The big advantage to an IWB holster is that you don't have to worry about the snout of your gun poking out from under your clothes.

The last item to go with the holster selection is a sturdy and properly-sized belt. It needs to be somewhat thick and matched in size to the holster slots for the best performance.

### ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS

No discussion is complete without touching on

shoulder holsters and ankle holsters.


The shoulder holster will carry the gun vertically or horizontally, and I feel that vertical is best because the horizontal carry puts everyone behind you in line with the muzzle at all times.

Like the cross-draw, the shoulder holster requires you to reach across your body to draw, creating the same problems with “painting” the room and creating the chance of having your gun “trapped” in a hands-on situation.

The ankle holster limits you to a gun that will fit under the cuff of your pants, so it will need to be small unless you want to resurrect the Bell-Bottom style of the 1960s!

A draw with an ankle holster requires you to take a knee or do a one-legged hop – neither of which is a good posture in the average man-on-man gunfight.

In closing, let me defend the cross-draw belt holster, the shoulder holster, and the ankle holster by pointing out that they are in their element when it comes to operating from inside a vehicle. Each of them has an advantage in this environment that cannot be matched by other styles.

As always, know your job, know the possible situations that may occur, and plan accordingly when it comes to selecting a holster style for concealed carry. 



## HOLSTERS

# THE RIGHT FIT, THE RIGHT FEATURES

*With Prices Starting at \$32,  
These are the Best Holster Options*



PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

**B**uying a holster for a new firearm is like buying a new pair of shoes. You need to find the right fit, the right features, and the right style to meet your needs and the intended use of the gun.

And just like new shoes, there is an almost unlimited number of styles and functions of holsters. For a new shooter, the number of choices can be overwhelming.

Fortunately, if you've made the choice to carry a concealed firearm, that helps simplify the decision-making process. We know you'll find the right holster for your unique needs.

[LEATHER]

## Desantis



**MODEL:** Thumb Break Mini Slide

**MSRP:** \$69.99

**WEBSITE:** DesantisHolster.com

**DESCRIPTION:** Premium saddle leather, double seams and a highly detailed molded fit make this exposed-muzzle, tight-fitting, two-slot holster a great choice for your favorite pistol. It features an adjustable-tension device.

[KYDEX]

## Blade-Tech



**MODEL:** Eclipse OWB Straight Drop Ambidextrous Holster

**MSRP:** \$79.99

**WEBSITE:** Blade-Tech.com

**DESCRIPTION:** This Blade-Tech holster was designed with comfort and concealing in mind. The holster has a built-in sweat guard with a very large sight guard and a Level 1 Friction fit for secure retention.

[LEATHER & KYDEX]

## Galco



**MODEL:** Tac Slide Belt Holster

**MSRP:** \$45.95

**WEBSITE:** GalcoGunleather.com

**DESCRIPTION:** Galco's new TacSlide combines steerhide and Kydex for a smooth, easily concealable belt holster. The steerhide back plate is smooth where it meets the user's body, so there's little chafe and increased comfort.

[LEATHER]

## Crossbreed Holsters



**MODEL:** Purse Defender

**MSRP:** From \$52

**WEBSITE:** CrossBreedHolsters.com

**DESCRIPTION:** Purse holster

**FEATURES:** This modular system is a great way for women to carry a variety of handguns. You can configure it in many ways, and add a second holster and magazine carrier.



# HOLSTERS

[KYDEX]

## Fobus Holsters



**MODEL:** GL 26 Paddle Holster

**MSRP:** From \$31.99

**WEBSITE:** FobusHolster.com

**DESCRIPTION:** Very comfortable paddle-type holster. This holster is an IWB-type holster that features double hooks for the belt which holds it firmly in place.

## Fobus Holsters



**MODEL:** J357

**MSRP:** From \$31.99

**WEBSITE:** FobusHolster.com

**DESCRIPTION:** Super concealable paddle holster for the 5-shot, S&W J-frame revolvers, and the Rossi M88.

## Safariland Holsters



**MODEL:** Bianchi® 135  
Suppression™ Inside Waistband

**MSRP:** From \$78.00

**WEBSITE:** Safariland.com

**DESCRIPTION:** This holster has a leather outer covering with a foam padded synthetic liner for long life. Designed for deep concealment especially if the shirt has to be tucked in.


## Safariland Holsters



**MODEL:** Safariland® 5378 GLS™  
Concealment Paddle & Belt Loop

**MSRP:** From \$53.00

**WEBSITE:** Safariland.com

**DESCRIPTION:** This holster comes with the Safariland GLS Grip Lock System which provides for excellent retention and is finger-deactivated when drawing. Available in a wide variety of belt slot openings and can be adjusted for cant or crossdraw. 



## COMPACT REVOLVERS

# DEEP COVER

*Great Guns Do Come in Small Packages*



PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

**S**mall frame revolvers fill a unique niche in the concealed carry world.

They are easy to learn how to load and unload, easy to learn how to shoot fairly well, and simple because they don't have external safeties to manipulate to get into action. You simply draw, aim and fire.

Plus, their long and heavy double-action trigger pulls means that the shooter has a built-in margin of safety when it comes to negligent discharges. They can fire +P loads or

light recoiling target and practice loads interchangeably without fear of a malfunction. They are a little slower to reload, but with a speedloader and some practice, they can hold their own with the semi-autos.

In fact, the compact revolver should still be a first choice for many holders of CCW permits, simply because of the combination of ease of use, reliability, excellent quality of firearms available and they're chambered for a wide variety of outstanding defensive ammunition.

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$300-\$400**

## *Taurus*

**MODEL:** 85  
**WEBSITE:** TaurusUSA.com  
**MSRP:** \$398  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .38 SPL +P  
**Capacity:** 5  
**Barrel Length:** 2.00 inches  
**Length:** 6.25 inches  
**Height:** 4.30 inches  
**Weight:** 1.31 pounds

**Features:** Compact dimensions, rated for powerful +P loads, straightforward operation



## *EAA Corporation*

**MODEL:** WINDICATOR 2 INCH  
**WEBSITE:** EAACorp.com  
**MSRP:** \$343  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .357 MAG  
**Capacity:** 6  
**Barrel Length:** 2.0 inches  
**Length:** 7.0 inches  
**Weight:** 30 ounces  
**Features:** Sculpted and cushioned grips, prominent hammer spur, made in Germany



## *Charter Arms*

**MODEL:** MAG PUG STANDARD  
**WEBSITE:** CharterFirearms.com  
**MSRP:** \$400  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .357 MAG  
**Capacity:** 5  
**Barrel Length:** 2.2 inches  
**Weight:** 23 ounces  
**Features:** Rubber grips, easily concealable design, smooth trigger



# COMPACT REVOLVERS

## Charter Arms

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$400-\$500**



**MODEL:**  
PINK LADY OFF DUTY  
**WEBSITE:**  
CharterFirearms.com  
**MSRP:** \$421  
**Action:** DAO  
**Caliber:** .38 SPL  
**Capacity:** 5  
**Barrel Length:** 2.0 inches  
**Weight:** 12 ounces

**Features:** Bright pink cast-aluminum frame, extremely lightweight, very simple operation

## Charter Arms



**MODEL:**  
BULLDOG PUG  
**WEBSITE:**  
CharterFirearms.com  
**MSRP:** \$414  
**Action:** DAO  
**Caliber:** .44 SPL  
**Capacity:** 5  
**Barrel Length:** 2.5 inches  
**Weight:** 21 ounces

**Features:** Bobbed hammer design, snag-free receiver design, serious defensive caliber

## Taurus



**MODEL:** 85SS2FS  
**WEBSITE:** TaurusUSA.com  
**MSRP:** \$429  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .38 SPL +P RATED  
**Capacity:** 6  
**Barrel Length:** 2.0 inches  
**Length:** 6.5 inches  
**Weight:** 22.2 ounces

**Features:** Transfer bar, Taurus security system, fixed front sight



## Rossi

**MODEL:** 462  
**WEBSITE:** RossiUSA.com  
**MSRP:** \$454  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .357 MAG  
**Capacity:** 6  
**Barrel Length:** 2.0 inches  
**Weight:** 26 ounces

**Features:** Low profile fixed sights, scalloped grips, and solid firepower

## Taurus

**MODEL:** 850B2UL  
**WEBSITE:** TaurusUSA.com  
**MSRP:** \$474  
**Action:** DAO  
**Caliber:** .38 SPL +P  
**Capacity:** 5  
**Barrel Length:** 2.0 inches  
**Length:** 6.5 inches  
**Height:** 4.3 inches  
**Weight:** 18 ounces  
**Features:** Concealed no-snag hammer, rubber grips, very light



## Charter Arms

**MODEL:** SOUTHPAW  
**WEBSITE:** CharterFirearms.com  
**MSRP:** \$415  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .38 SPL +P  
**Capacity:** 5  
**Barrel Length:** 2.0 inches  
**Weight:** 12 ounces  
**Features:** Dedicated left-hand model, aluminum frame for light weight, available in two-tone pink finish

## Charter Arms

**MODEL:** UNDERCOVER LITE BLACK STD  
**WEBSITE:** CharterFirearms.com  
**MSRP:** \$410  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .38 SPL +P  
**Capacity:** 5  
**Barrel Length:** 2.0 inches  
**Weight:** 12 ounces  
**Features:** Aluminum frame with steel, spurred hammer, integral sights





# COMPACT REVOLVERS

## Cobra Firearms



**MODEL:** SHADOW  
**WEBSITE:** CobraPistols.net  
**MSRP:** \$425  
**Action:** DAO  
**Caliber:** .38 SPL +P  
**Capacity:** 5  
**Barrel Length:** 1.9 inches  
**Length:** 6.4 inches  
**Weight:** 15 ounces

**Features:** Hammerless design, wide range of custom colors, integral sights

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$500 & Up**



*Smith & Wesson*

**MODEL:** 60 LS LADYSMITH  
**WEBSITE:** Smith-Wesson.com  
**MSRP:** \$759  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .357 MAG/.38 SPL +P  
**Capacity:** 5  
**Barrel Length:** 2.10 inches  
**Length:** 6.60 inches  
**Weight:** 1.31 pounds

**Features:** Walnut full-finger grips, fits easily in a purse or discreet holster, integral sights

## Smith & Wesson



**MODEL:** 686  
**WEBSITE:** Smith-Wesson.com  
**MSRP:** \$829  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .357 MAG/.38 SPL +P  
**Capacity:** 6  
**Barrel Length:** 2.5 inches  
**Length:** 7.5 inches  
**Weight:** 2.17 pounds

**Features:** Adjustable sights with white outline, orange insert front sight, comfortable grip

## Smith & Wesson



**MODEL:** GOVERNOR  
**WEBSITE:** Smith-Wesson.com  
**MSRP:** \$869  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .45 Colt/.410 Shotshell  
**Capacity:** 6  
**Barrel Length:** 2.75 inches  
**Length:** 8.50 inches  
**Width:** 1.75 inches  
**Height:** 5.5 inches  
**Weight:** 1.88 pounds

**Features:** Accepts .410 shotshells, .45 Colt and .45 ACP, features integral sights, rifled barrel

## Smith & Wesson



**MODEL:** BODYGUARD 38  
**WEBSITE:** Smith-Wesson.com  
**MSRP:** \$509  
**Action:** DAO  
**Caliber:** .38 SPL  
**Capacity:** 5  
**Barrel Length:** 1.9 inches  
**Length:** 6.6 inches  
**Weight:** 14.3 ounces  
**Features:** Hammerless design, laser sight, integral metallic sights

## Smith & Wesson



**MODEL:** 351C  
**WEBSITE:** Smith-Wesson.com  
**MSRP:** \$689  
**Action:** DAO  
**Caliber:** .22 MAG  
**Capacity:** 7  
**Barrel Length:** 1.9 inches  
**Length:** 6.2 inches  
**Weight:** 11 ounces  
**Features:** Hammerless design, high capacity for size, suitable for the recoil-sensitive

## Taurus



**MODEL:** 850SS2UL  
**WEBSITE:** TaurusUSA.com  
**MSRP:** \$514  
**Action:** DAO  
**Caliber:** .38 SPL +P  
**Capacity:** 5  
**Barrel Length:** 2.0 inches  
**Length:** 6.5 inches  
**Height:** 4.3 inches  
**Weight:** 18 ounces  
**Features:** Concealed no-snag hammer, rubber grips, very lightweight



# COMPACT REVOLVERS

## Taurus

**MODEL:** 731 ULTRA LITE  
**WEBSITE:** TaurusUSA.com

**MSRP:** \$514

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .32 H&R MAG

**Capacity:** 6

**Barrel Length:** 2 inches

**Length:** 6.5 inches

**Height:** 4.3 inches

**Weight:** 17 ounces

**Features:** Lightweight design, powerful specialty caliber, compact overall package



## Ruger

**MODEL:** LCR  
**WEBSITE:** Ruger.com  
**MSRP:** \$879 (with  
Crimson Trace LaserGrip)  
**Action:** DAO  
**Caliber:** .357 MAG  
**Capacity:** 5

**Features:** Hammerless  
design, some polymer  
components, custom  
Crimson Trace  
LaserGrips

**Barrel Length:** 1.9 inches  
**Length:** 6.5 inches  
**Width:** 1.3 inches  
**Height:** 4.5 inches  
**Weight:** 16.6 ounces



Ruger



**MODEL:** SP101  
**WEBSITE:** Ruger.com  
**MSRP:** \$699  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .357 MAG  
**Capacity:** 5  
**Barrel Length:** 4.2 inches  
**Length:** 9.12 inches  
**Weight:** 1.84 pounds

**Features:** Fiber optic front sight, adjustable rear sight, 3-inch barrel for improved velocity

Smith & Wesson



**MODEL:** M351PD  
**WEBSITE:** Smith-Wesson.com  
**MSRP:** \$759  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** 22 MAG  
**Capacity:** 7  
**Barrel Length:** 1.875 inches  
**Length:** 6.1 inches  
**Weight:** 10 ounces

**Features:** HiViz front sight, extremely lightweight and chambered for the 22 MAG. Perfect for people who are recoil-sensitive, but still require personal protection. Black matte finish, easily concealable. **CC**





# 5 TO **STAY ALIVE**

## *Five Ways Women Can Bolster Their Self-Defense Skills*

BY SUSAN CARRICHNER REXRODE

**W**omen are not only the fastest growing segment of people making the decision to carry a handgun for personal protection, we are also the most likely to have to use it to defend ourselves.

To compound the problem, criminals and estranged men from former relationships consider most women unlikely to be able to prevail if attacked. The good news is that there are ways to increase your odds. Let's look at them.

### **1** *Avoid Overconfidence*

First, and foremost, do not get a false sense of security just because you have purchased a handgun and perhaps passed a state required safety course or have passed the CCW exam to be able to carry it for personal protection.

Virtually anyone with a little bit of practice and some help perfecting their shooting skills can walk away from the range having shot a "nice group" in the target. Be truthful with yourself, "Would you really perform that good if someone was trying to cause you serious bodily injury or death?" Under duress, most people will only be 10% as good as their best day at the range because of many factors, odds which can be increased substantially with training in self-defense skills and the mindset to be able to act instinctively and proactively rather than reactively.

*“ ... do not get a false sense of security just because you have purchased a handgun ... ”*

### **2** *Reliable Gear*

The gear and the gun on which you rely will not perform well unless you do. Selecting the best self-defense tools for your uniqueness is paramount.

Do not bet your life on them unless you can operate them instinctively as a natural extension of your body mechanics, in a manner that effectively places the shot where it needs to go without continued focus on your equipment.

To decrease the devastating odds of mechanical failure, always purchase the best quality gun and gear you can afford, keeping in mind that the investment you decide to make will be used to defend precious life.





PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

A good semi-auto handgun, with a good holster, is a great handgun for concealed carry for women

## 3 *Quality Instruction*

Increase the odds you will prevail by engaging a knowledgeable instructor to participate with you when you go to a shooting range to “try out” different handguns.

When a handgun really does fit your hand, strength and abilities properly, it will end up feeling great; but, just because it may “feel good” as you hold it, or you can do what it takes to hit the target, does not mean it is the perfect gun for you in a life-threatening scenario. How many times have women gone to a shoe store, tried on shoes, walked around in the store in them and thought that they were going to be perfect . . . only to wear them, suffer from painful blisters and discover that they don't really fit at all?

Having the experience and knowledge of a trained professional beside you (and not just a “salesperson”) while “trying” different handguns is like having a foot doctor with you trying on shoes — priceless! Plus, handguns are not cheap and very

rarely returnable for a different model.

It could be fatal when running from someone trying to cause you serious bodily injury or death in shoes that hurt, cause you to trip or hesitate, or worse ... fall. Why do so many salespeople encourage women to rely on a “snappy little self defense gun” that boasts being easy to conceal, light enough to forget you have, and yet packs too much of a wallop to shoot many rounds through at a time, let alone enjoy practicing?

The saying, “no pain, no gain” shouldn't apply in self-defense gun selection — even if we ladies are tough enough when it counts. Most importantly, be certain that you can maintain control of the handgun with only one hand (including your weak hand), not only while you are shooting, but in the event your attacker attempts to take it away from you. You never want to risk the odds of losing your handgun to an attacker because you could not hold onto it.

*“ To decrease the devastating odds of mechanical failure, always purchase the best quality gun and gear you can afford ... ”*

# 4 Training

Embrace the importance of training and education and make the commitment to become truly proficient with the tools you will expect to help you when the time comes to defend your life — possession of the gun alone is false empowerment.


Realize the fact that you will not have much time to react if attacked. It will come more in the form of an ambush — the one scenario wherein most military or law enforcement are overtaken — immediately placing you at a huge disadvantage.

Train with the understanding that before you have an opportunity to access your handgun, you will most likely be forced to physically fight, and you may find yourself on your back or without the availability of both hands to hold your handgun. Learn and practice proper techniques, including the ability to efficiently access, draw and operate your handgun. Make the decision that your life is worth saving and never give up.

# 5 Awareness

Lastly, the term, *situational awareness* means learning to be aware of your surroundings and think ahead to determine potential dangers, which will ultimately result in the best self-defense odds of all .... avoiding the attack.

## BE PREPARED

Increasing the odds that you will prevail if attacked is in your hands. Do your research, get your training and always be aware of your surroundings. 

*Susan Carrichner Rexrode is the founder of the Shooting for Women Alliance and a freelance writer.*



Working with a quality instructor is paramount when making a decision to carry a handgun for self-defense.

PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

## DID YOU KNOW?

During the stress of an attack, officials estimate that most will only be 10% as good as their best day at the range.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**SHOOTING FOR WOMEN ALLIANCE**  
PO Box 1062  
Knoxville, TN 37901  
[Susan@ShootingforWomenAlliance.com](mailto:Susan@ShootingforWomenAlliance.com)  
[www.mysfwa.com](http://www.mysfwa.com)



## MEDIUM REVOLVERS

# MIDDLE OF THE PACK

*Mid-Size Revolvers, Perfect Marriage of Size and Concealability*



PHOTO BY BRAD FITZPATRICK

**S**tanding square in the middle between the compact revolvers and full-size wheelguns, the mid-sized revolvers occupy a unique niche in the world of concealable revolvers.

These guns provide a good balance of size, concealability and usefulness. They can perform double duty as everyday carry guns for someone with a CCW, and they can also be used for some types of sport shooting events with appropriate speedloaders and holsters.

The great thing about revolvers, as opposed to semi-autos, is that they are not sensitive to ammunition types and/or bullet nose configurations. They will pretty much feed anything, and will shoot anything from full power +P loads to light target loads, as long as the revolver is chambered and rated for it.

Versatile, reliable, fun to shoot and chambered in effective calibers for serious use, the revolver should be on everyone's shortlist of must-have firearms.



## Chiappa Firearms

**Model:** RHINO 40DS

**Website:** ChiappaFirearms.com

**MSRP:** \$775

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .357 MAG

**Capacity:** 6

**Barrel Length:** 4.0 inches

**Length:** 8.5 inches

**Weight:** 30 ounces

**Features:** Fires from bottom cylinder, concealed hammer, extremely low bore axis

### *Design Element:*

Chiappa's Rhino revolvers fire from the bottom cylinder ... to lower the bore axis for better recoil management.



## Rossi

**Model:** R97104

**Website:** RossiUSA.com

**MSRP:** \$465

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .357 Magnum

**Capacity:** 6

**Barrel Length:** 4.0 inches

**Length:** 8 inches

**Weight:** 32 ounces

**Features:** Adjustable sights, molded grips, great sight radius, deep and contoured finger grooves



# MEDIUM REVOLVERS

## Charter Arms

**Model:** BULLDOG STAINLESS STANDARD

**Website:** CharterFirearms.com

**MSRP:** \$418

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .44 Spl

**Capacity:** 5

**Barrel Length:** 4 inches

**Weight:** 32 ounces

**Features:** 4-inch barrel stainless steel target model, fitted with adjustable sights and a longer barrel for higher velocities



## Charter Arms

**Model:** BULLDOG 44 SPECIAL TIGER

**Website:** CharterFirearms.com

**MSRP:** \$457

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .44 Spl

**Capacity:** 5

**Barrel Length:** 4 inches

**Weight:** 32 ounces

**Features:** Stainless steel edition of the 44 Bulldog, coated with an extremely durable tiger-striped finish, 4-inch barreled model, fitted with adjustable sights

## Charter Arms

**Model:** BULLDOG 44 SPECIAL DAO

**Website:** CharterFirearms.com

**MSRP:** \$422

**Action:** DA

**Caliber:** .44 Spl

**Capacity:** 5

**Barrel Length:** 4 inches

**Weight:** 32 ounces

**Features:** Stainless steel edition of the 44 Bulldog, double action only, eliminates the hammer spur for additional concealability





## Rossi

**Model:** 98104

**Website:** RossiUSA.com

**MSRP:** \$408

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .22 LR

**Capacity:** 8

**Barrel Length:** 4.0 inches

**Length:** 8.5 inches

**Weight:** 29 ounces

**Features:** Ventilated rib atop barrel, adjustable sights, supremely comfortable grips



## Taurus

**Model:** 65B4

**Website:** TaurusUSA.com

**MSRP:** \$488.46

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .357 MAG

**Capacity:** 6

**Barrel Length:** 4.0 inches

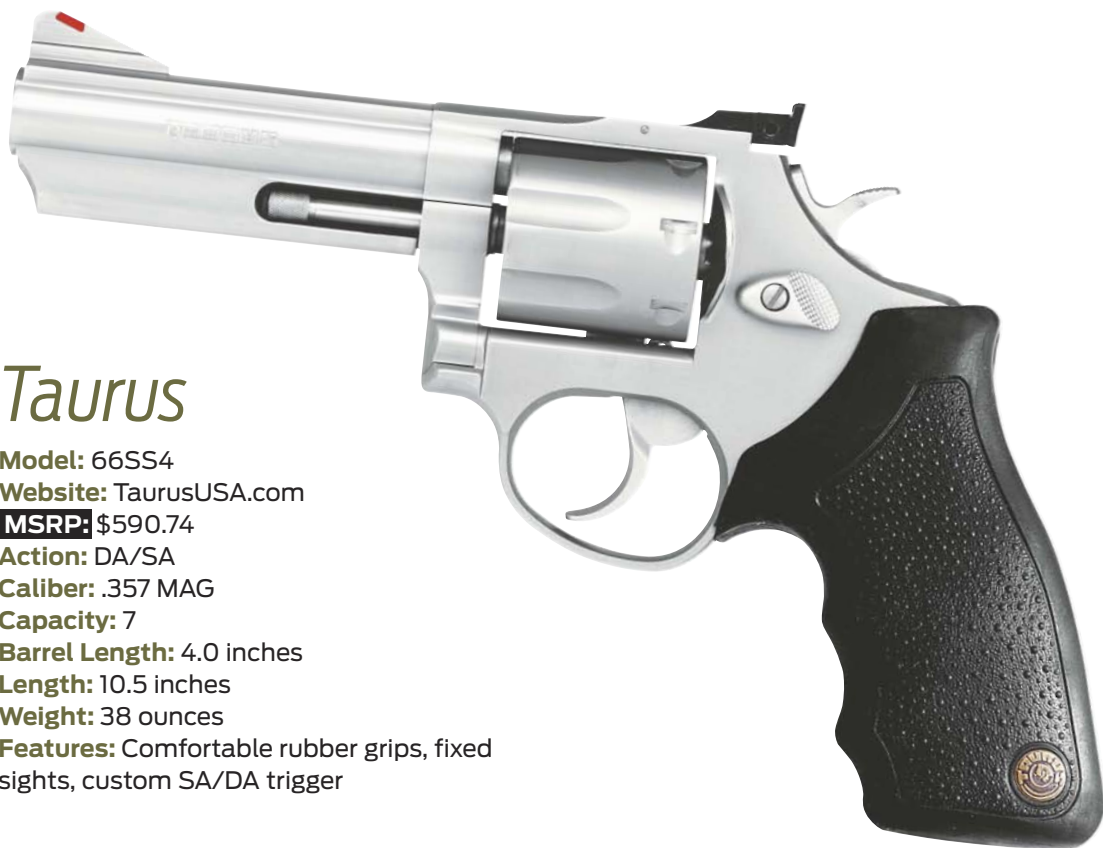
**Length:** 10.5 inches

**Weight:** 38 ounces

**Features:** Comfortable rubber grips, fixed sights, custom SA/DA trigger



# MEDIUM REVOLVERS



## Taurus

**Model:** 66SS4

**Website:** TaurusUSA.com

**MSRP:** \$590.74

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .357 MAG

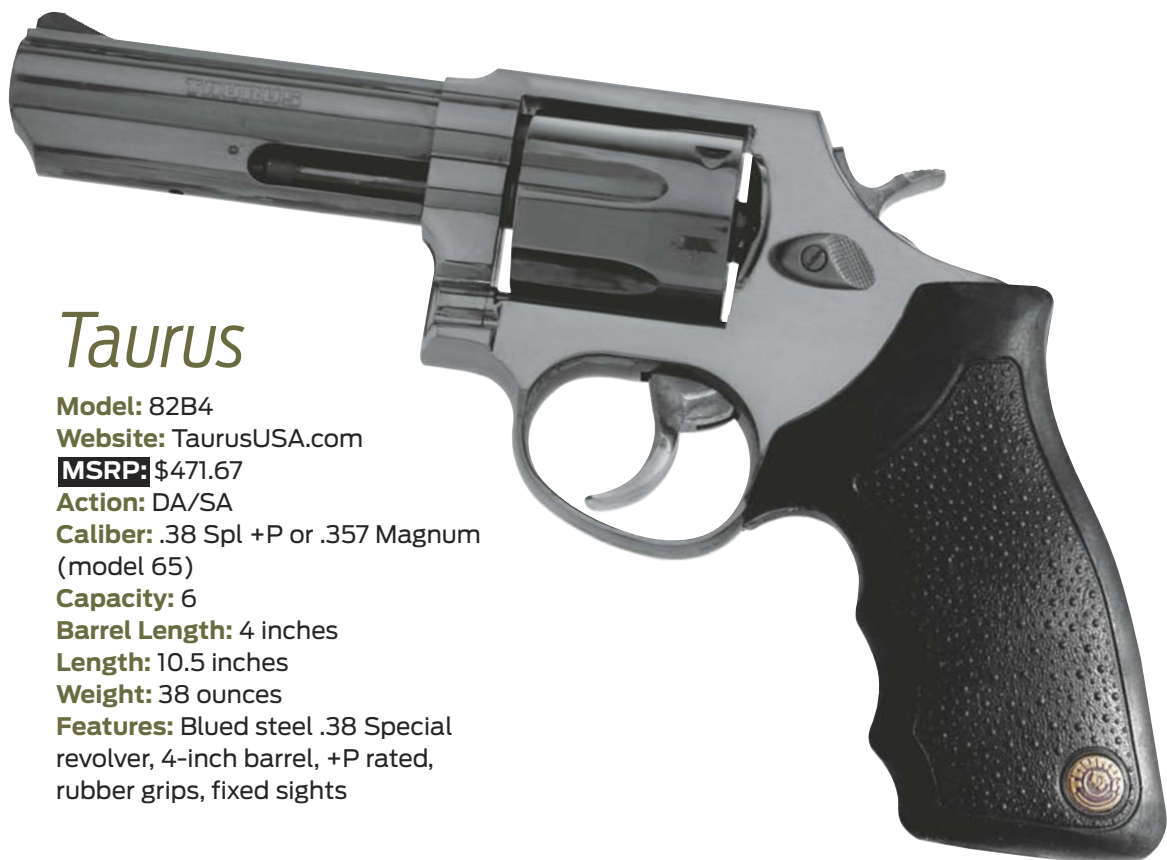
**Capacity:** 7

**Barrel Length:** 4.0 inches

**Length:** 10.5 inches

**Weight:** 38 ounces

**Features:** Comfortable rubber grips, fixed sights, custom SA/DA trigger



## Taurus

**Model:** 82B4

**Website:** TaurusUSA.com

**MSRP:** \$471.67

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .38 Spl +P or .357 Magnum (model 65)

**Capacity:** 6

**Barrel Length:** 4 inches

**Length:** 10.5 inches

**Weight:** 38 ounces

**Features:** Blued steel .38 Special revolver, 4-inch barrel, +P rated, rubber grips, fixed sights

## Ruger



**Model:** GP100  
**Website:** Ruger.com  
**MSRP:** \$759  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .327 MAG  
**Capacity:** 7  
**Barrel Length:** 4.2 inches  
**Length:** 9.5 inches  
**Weight:** 40 ounces  
**Features:** Adjustable sights, palm swell grip, extra shot by virtue of unique chambering

## Smith & Wesson



**Model:** 586  
**Website:** Smith-Wesson.com  
**MSRP:** \$809  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .357 MAG  
**Capacity:** 6  
**Barrel Length:** 4 inches  
**Length:** 9.25 inches  
**Weight:** 41 ounces  
**Features:** Red ramp front sight, comfortable grip, fantastic accuracy potential

## Smith & Wesson



**Model:** 686 Plus  
**Website:** Smith-Wesson.com  
**MSRP:** \$809  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .357 MAG/38  
Special +P power  
**Capacity:** 7  
**Barrel Length:** 3.0 inches  
**Length:** 8.18 inches  
**Weight:** 41 ounces  
**Features:** 3-inch barrel, 7 rounds of 357 Magnum or .38 Special +P power



## MEDIUM REVOLVERS



### Smith & Wesson

**Model:** 586 L-COMP

**Website:** Smith-Wesson.com

**MSRP:** NOT LISTED

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .357 MAG/38 Special +P power

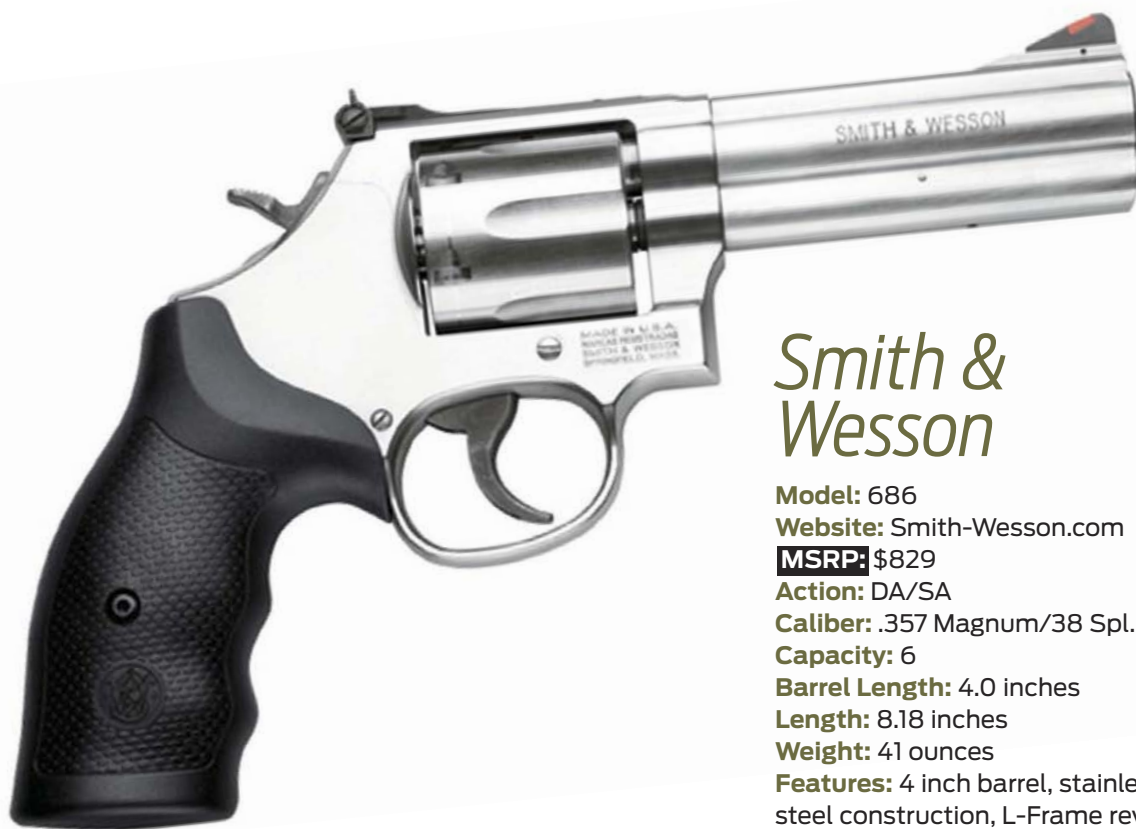
**Capacity:** 7

**Barrel Length:** 3.0 inches

**Length:** 8.18 inches

**Weight:** 41 ounces

**Features:** 3-inch barrel, 7 rounds of 357 Magnum or .38 Special +P power, full underlug barrel, Tritium front sight, adjustable rear sight



### Smith & Wesson

**Model:** 686

**Website:** Smith-Wesson.com

**MSRP:** \$829

**Action:** DA/SA


**Caliber:** .357 Magnum/38 Spl.

**Capacity:** 6

**Barrel Length:** 4.0 inches

**Length:** 8.18 inches

**Weight:** 41 ounces

**Features:** 4 inch barrel, stainless steel construction, L-Frame revolver, designed for heavy use 

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# EFFECTIVE **PRESENTATION**

The Best Methods For Quickly And Safely Bringing  
Your Concealed Handgun Into Action

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY CHUCK TAYLOR



A fast, efficient concealed carry presentation can easily make the difference between life and death and should be taken seriously by anyone who carries a handgun on a daily basis. Here, Taylor's students are in the process of dealing with a situation in which the fight begins with the adversary already aiming his

weapon at you. A quick sidestep to remove yourself from the immediate line of fire, followed by dropping into the kneeling position as you present your own concealed weapon also causes you to momentarily disappear from your assailant's view, giving you 1-1½ more seconds to respond.

PHOTO BY TKT



**W**ith more and more states adopting concealed carry laws, it's no surprise that large numbers self-defense-minded civilians are embracing the concept with enthusiasm.

All across the nation, hundreds of thousands of citizens are attending state-certified CCW programs, obtaining their permits and then resting easier as they go about their daily business. Yet, all too many fail to realize that getting a CCW permit is only the beginning of the concealed carry process.

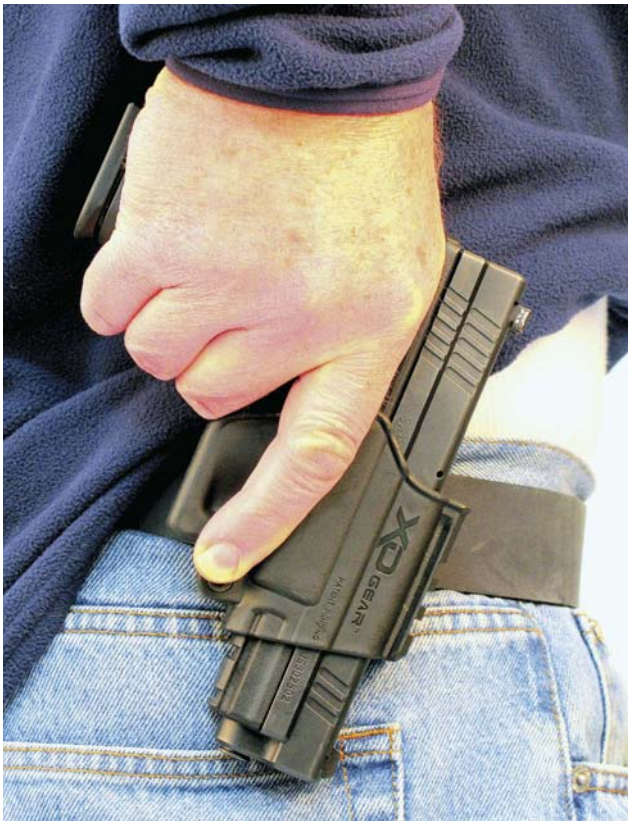
### PROPER TRAINING—A MUST

Though dozens of states offer CCW permits, their training and testing requirements are geared more to minimize the state's criminal and civil liability than to increase the CCW holder's abilities. Thus, the

responsible CCW permittee should immediately seek additional training to gain a full perspective on the subject and build his weapon skills to appropriate levels.

This said, I've also noticed another CCW anomaly—hardly any of the state-sponsored CCW courses I've observed require the student to present their weapon from concealed carry, instead allowing them to present and handle their handguns from an open holster. And as if this weren't sufficient cause for alarm in and of itself, many courses don't even require the students to present their weapons from a holster at all!

Considering the somewhat severe civil liability hazard these days of not having received formal instruction in concealed carry weapon presentation, I find this curious and, to be frank, just a bit alarming,



In order to get maximum efficiency from any presentation technique, the holster must exhibit two specific design characteristics. First, it must prevent trigger finger entry into the trigger guard area, and; second, it must have sufficient finger clearance to allow a proper firing grip to be obtained with the gun in the holster.



A proper ready position is also critical. If you're going to challenge someone or assess the situation after you shoot, the gun must be kept well below line of sight to the target. Note also that the trigger finger is kept out of the trigger guard when the weapon is at the ready.

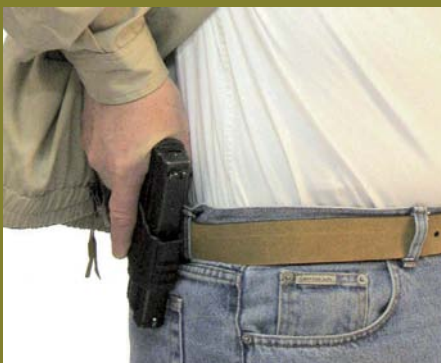
*“... the idea of accessing and presenting a concealed handgun isn't intrinsically complex, if incorrectly considered, it does pose some potentially dangerous hazards.”*



## To present from strong-side carry from beneath an open-front concealment garment:



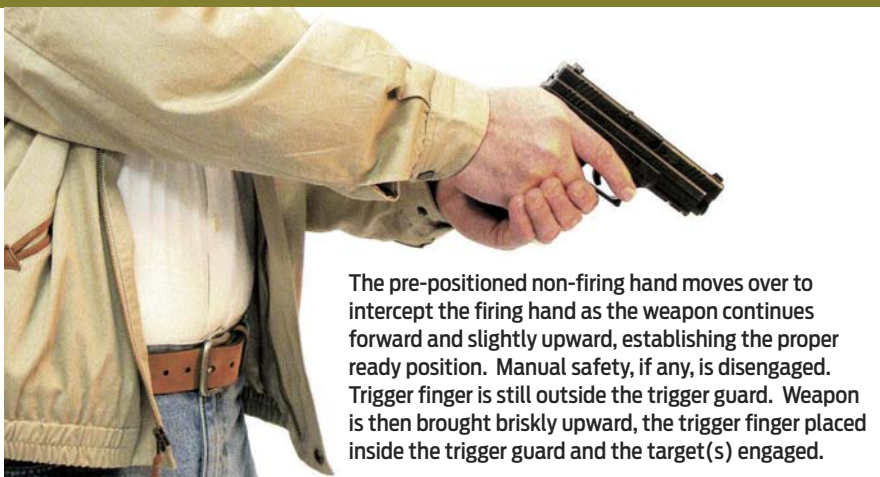
Use the little and/or ring finger of the firing hand to sweep the garment aside, allowing access to the holstered weapon.



Obtain a firing grip, release any security device and lock the firing wrist. Simultaneously, the elbow of the non-firing arm is moved 90-degrees, bringing the hand to horizontal along the body centerline in a loose knife-edge configuration. Do not allow hand to move past the centerline.



Pistol is then withdrawn upward to a point where the muzzle is clear of the holster and brought forward. The trigger finger remains outside the trigger guard area.



The pre-positioned non-firing hand moves over to intercept the firing hand as the weapon continues forward and slightly upward, establishing the proper ready position. Manual safety, if any, is disengaged. Trigger finger is still outside the trigger guard. Weapon is then brought briskly upward, the trigger finger placed inside the trigger guard and the target(s) engaged.

too. One would think that if the defensive handgun is to be carried concealed, that the need for proper instruction on how to quickly and safely access and bring it into action would be obvious.

And the anomaly isn't limited to civilians with CCWs, either. The vast majority of plainclothes police officers receive the same training in weapon presentations as uniformed officers, though the use of their service handguns requires a completely different mindset and methodology. It's as though the person carrying the firearm is expected to figure it out for himself and adapt open carry presentation methods to a concealed carry mode.

Though the idea of accessing and presenting a conceal handgun isn't intrinsically complex, if incorrectly considered, it does pose some potentially dangerous hazards.

### CARRY CONSIDERATIONS

First, we must consider how the weapon itself is

to be carried. Will it be on your strong or weak side, inside or outside the pants?

Then there's the issue of how it will actually be concealed; will it be carried beneath an open or closed front garment?

These two issues are critical, not only to obtaining maximum concealment, but rapid access to, and presentation of, the weapon upon demand.

### CONCEALMENT CLOTHING

Concealment garments typically fall into two basic categories — open and closed front.

Most often, open-front garments take the form of a "Banana-Republic" type vest, suit or sport coat, or jacket. Yes, it's true that all of them have some means of fastening the front closed, but far more often, particularly when a concealed handgun is involved, the garment is intentionally left open.

This type of garment offers at least satisfactory comfort in warm weather and has the advantage

To present from strong-side carry from beneath a closed-front concealment garment:



With both hands, grasp the hem of the garment and pull it briskly upward to a point near the pectoral muscle.



Release the firing hand from the hem of the garment and obtain a firing grip on the holstered weapon. The non-firing hand continues to grasp the garment hem, holding it clear. This is important to prevent the garment from dropping too quickly, thus snagging the weapon as it is brought upward and forward from the holster.



Withdraw the gun upward to a point where its muzzle clears the holster. Trigger finger remains straight, along the frame of the weapon.



Keeping the trigger finger outside the trigger guard, bring the pistol forward and slight upward, while the non-firing hand releases the garment hem and moves to intercept the firing hand, thus creating the ready position. Manual safety, if any, is disengaged. Weapon is then brought briskly upward, trigger finger placed inside the trigger guard, sight acquisition completed and the target(s) engaged.



A fast, efficient concealed carry presentation enhances performance regardless of what specific function the shooter is performing.

of being “socially invisible.” Nearly everyone in the business community wears either a suit or sport coat and slacks, and the so-called “photographer’s vest” has become a common sight in more casual situations.

Presentation from an open-front garment is a bit faster (about two-tenths of a second, when proper technique is used) than from a closed-front garment, because the garment is swept clear of the holstered weapon by the firing hand as presentation begins. However, in balance, open-front garments also offer slightly diminished concealment, particularly if the gun is carried in the strong-side mode.

This means that you can’t “belly up” to the bar or lean over precipitously or the butt of the gun will “print” clearly through the garment.

When strong-side carry is involved, open-front garments also require that something with a bit of bulk, not weight per se, is located low on the firing side to give some mass to the garment. Otherwise, it will often buckle and wrap itself around the ring and little

finger of the firing hand as the shooter attempts to sweep it clear, rather than swing away.

In the old days, the FBI used to advise their new agents to have some OO buckshot or fisherman’s “split-shot” sewn into the firing side hem of their coats. However, I find that placing a wallet in the pocket of the coat or vest works very nicely.

Closed-front garments most often take the form of an oversize shirt, such as the Hawaiian type, or a baggy sweatshirt or T-shirt, with the hem worn outside the waistband. These are more comfortable than open-front garments and, if two or three sizes larger than normally worn, surprisingly concealable.

As mentioned before, they’re just a bit slower (about two-tenths of a second) than an open-front garment, but for many (especially those who live in warmer climates), the superior comfort and concealability is more important.

If you carry strong side in conjunction with a



## To present from cross-draw carry and an open-front concealment garment:



As the non-firing hand grasps and pulls the concealment garment to the non-firing side, the firing hand moves toward the butt of the holstered gun and obtains a firing grip.



As the non-firing hand releases the concealment garment and moves to an intercept position along the body centerline at about waist height, the pistol is rotated beneath it and thrust outward. Do not move the muzzle of the pistol across the non-firing forearm and insure that the trigger finger remains outside the trigger guard.



The gun is then briskly withdrawn from the holster to a point where muzzle is clear. The trigger finger remains outside the trigger guard and non-firing hand continues to hold concealment garment clear of the holster area.



As the pistol continues forward, the non-firing hand intercepts, thus forming a proper ready position. The trigger finger continues to remain outside the trigger guard. The weapon is then brought upward from ready to point, the trigger being placed inside the trigger guard as it rises, and the target(s) engaged.

### PROS AND CONS

**TOPIC:** Faster Presentation

**TYPE:** Open front-garment vs. closed-front garment

**ANSWER:** Open-front garment

**TOPIC:** Concealment

**TYPE:** Open front-garment vs. closed-front garment

**ANSWER:** Closed-front garment

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### 2/10 of a second

The amount of time that is saved when presenting a gun from an open-front garment

### MORE INFORMATION

**WHO:** Chuck Taylor

**ACADEMY:** Chuck Taylor's American Small Arms Academy

**ADDRESS:** Post Office Box 871, Mayer, AZ 86333

**WEBSITE:** ChuckTaylorASAA.com

**EMAIL:** Nighthawk6@cableone.net

closed-front garment, your presentation speed and consistency will be greatly enhanced if you begin the presentation by grasping the hem of the garment in front of the firing side hip and briskly put it upward to the pectoral muscle. Then, the firing hand is released to access the holster weapon.

If only the non-firing hand grasps the hem, it often fails to pull the garment high enough to remain clear as the gun leaves the holster and begins to move forward, causing it to drop too quickly as the non-firing hand moves downward and forward to intercept the firing hand. The result is a "balling up" of the garment and the gun, with potentially dangerous consequences. I use the word "dangerous" because two things can happen:

**1)** The force involved in thrusting the weapon forward is considerable and if the gun is caught in the garment hem, it can literally wrench it from the firing hand and send it spinning forward to the ground; or

**2)** If the operator isn't trained to keep his trigger finger clear of the trigger guard area until the gun has cleared the body and been brought under complete control, "balling the gun up" in the hem of the garment can cause a negligent discharge, with potentially catastrophic results.

### MASTER THE TECHNIQUES

In the photo sequences that accompany this text, you'll see the faster, safest and most consistent techniques for presenting for strong-side and cross-draw carry from beneath open- and closed-front concealment. They were carefully conceived and tested for years in actual confrontations, taught to thousands, and have saved the lives of several hundred of my students,

## To present from cross-draw carry and closed-front concealment garment:



As the non-firing hand grasps and briskly lifts front hem of concealment garment, the firing hand moves to the holstered gun and obtains a proper firing grip.



While the non-firing hand continues to hold the hem of the concealment garment clear, weapon is withdrawn briskly upwards until muzzle clears the holster. The trigger finger is placed on the gun's frame, outside the trigger guard.



As the non-firing hand releases the garment hem and moves forward to an intercept position along the body centerline, the pistol is thrust forward. The manual safety, if any, is disengaged. Interception is initiated and the ready position established. The trigger finger continues to remain outside the trigger guard. The gun is then briskly brought upward from ready to point, the trigger finger placed inside the trigger guard, the sights acquired and the target(s) engaged.


military, police and civilian alike.

As such, they're not competition-based, nor are they the result of the firing-range mindset that afflicts so many shooters and even trainers these days — quite the opposite.

Instead, they were created to be used in a tactical environment, where deadly stress debilitates the shooter to his most fundamental level (50% skill degradation is typical). Their actual use in tactical situations by military, police and civilians alike has proven them to be highly efficient and thus worth your consideration.

### LEARN & LEARN WELL

If you carry your defensive handgun concealed, you owe it to yourself to learn them and learn them well. Once you have done so, you can legitimately breathe easier and go about life knowing that you can handle any kind of concealed carry emergency that may come your way.

Otherwise, you place yourself in a position of being exposed to the worst of all three kinds of liability — tactical, criminal and civil. To do so when their dangers can be reduced to manageable levels through proper technique and understanding is, as Mr. Spock of Star Trek often said, "illogical and most unwise." 

*Founder and director of the American Small Arms Academy, Chuck Taylor has trained tactical personnel for well-known and covert military/police units, as well as other armed security personnel. The military forces of several major nations have adopted his techniques, and he has received multiple commendations from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), FBI, U.S. Army Special Forces, U.S. Navy SEALs and a host of law enforcement agencies worldwide.*

*“...many fail to realize that getting a CCW permit is only the beginning of the concealed carry process.”*



The vast majority of CCW permittees and tactical shooters practice from open carry, yet routinely carry their handguns concealed. The assumption that a good open-carry presentation will suffice when concealed carry is involved is dangerously untrue.



## FULL-FRAME REVOLVERS

# SIZE AND POWER

*Full-Framed Revolvers Impart Confidence*



PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

**L**arge frame revolvers might not be the first choice for a concealed carry firearms, but for many CCW holders who live in cold climates or who may carry in a backpack on the trail, they mean plenty.

A large framed revolver chambered in a powerful cartridge like a 44 MAG or 45 Long Colt imparts a certain amount of confidence in being able to stop any violent confrontation,

either two legged or four. Newer models are chambered for 410 shotshell loads and other new ammunition types and are being used every day by hunters, police officers and CCW holders.

Look over the hot collection of large framed revolvers we've put together in the following section. We're sure you'll find one that will suit any need you have.

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$200-\$700**

## Comanche

**Model:** COMANCHE II-A

**Website:** ComanchePistols.com

**MSRP:** \$205

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .38 SPL

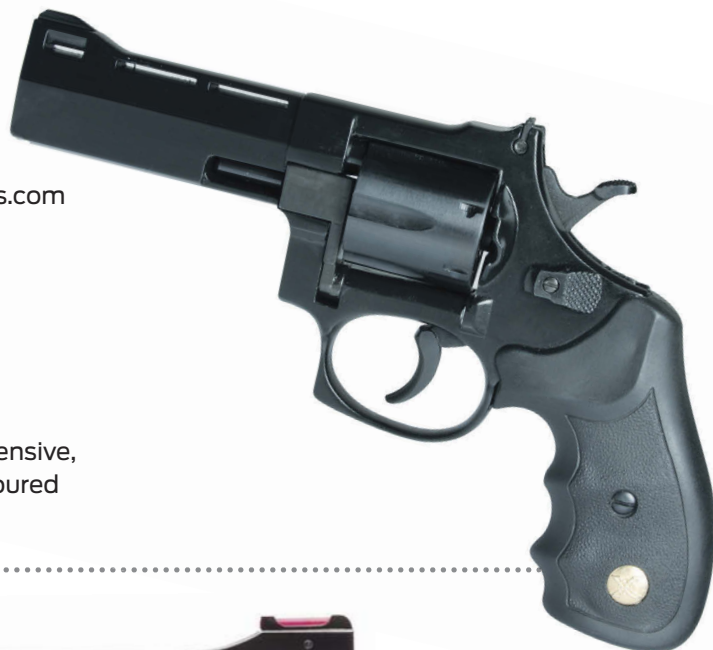
**Capacity:** 6

**Barrel Length:** 6

**Length:** 8 inches

**Weight:** 33 ounces

**Features:** Extremely inexpensive, adjustable rear sight, contoured rubber grip, alloy frame



## Rossi



**Model:** R98106

**Website:** RossiUSA.com

**MSRP:** \$407.57

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .22 LR

**Capacity:** 8

**Barrel Length:** 6 inches

**Weight:** 29.5 ounces

**Features:** Adjustable rear sight, steel construction, fixed red fiber optic, hammer block, rubber grips

## Rossi

**Model:** R971

**Website:** RossiUSA.com

**MSRP:** \$454.89

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .357 MAG

**Capacity:** 6

**Barrel Length:** 4 inches

**Weight:** 32 ounces

**Features:** Adjustable sights, molded grips, blued steel construction, fully adjustable rear sight





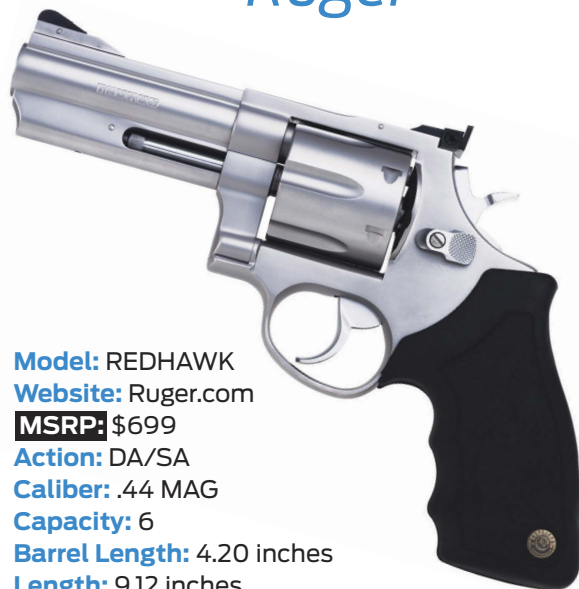
# FULL-FRAME REVOLVERS

Ruger



**Model:** GP100  
**Website:** Ruger.com  
**MSRP:** \$699  
**Action:** DA  
**Caliber:** .357 MAG  
**Capacity:** 6  
**Barrel Length:** 6.0 inches  
**Length:** 9.50 inches  
**Weight:** 40 ounces  
**Features:** Ruger transfer bar mechanism for security, grip frame design, Hogue Monogrip

Ruger



**Model:** REDHAWK  
**Website:** Ruger.com  
**MSRP:** \$699  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .44 MAG  
**Capacity:** 6  
**Barrel Length:** 4.20 inches  
**Length:** 9.12 inches  
**Weight:** 29.5 ounces

**Features:** Replaceable front sight, adjustable rear sight, 4-inch barrel, fitted with Hogue MONOgrip, single spring for both hammer and trigger provide a smooth consistent trigger pull

**PRICE RANGE**  
**\$700 & Up**

Smith & Wesson



**Model:** M327  
**Website:** Smith-Wesson.com  
**MSRP:** \$1,309  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .357 MAG  
**Capacity:** 8  
**Barrel Length:** 2 inches  
**Weight:** 21.4 ounces

**Features:** Large N-Frame revolver chambered for the 357 MAG. Red ramp front sight with overtravel stop on the trigger.



Taurus

**Model:** 44SS6  
**Website:** TaurusUSA.com  
**MSRP:** \$742  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .44 MAG  
**Capacity:** 6  
**Barrel Length:** 6.5 inches  
**Length:** 11.6 inches  
**Weight:** 52 ounces

**Features:** Tuned porting, vent rib barrel, molded recoil-absorbing grips, adjustable sights

## Taurus

**Model:** 608

**Website:** TaurusUSA.com

**MSRP:** NOT LISTED

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .357 MAG

**Capacity:** 6

**Barrel Length:** 6.5 inches

**Length:** 11.6 inches

**Weight:** 52 ounces

**Features:** Adjustable sights, and chambered in .357 MAG, revolver also features Taurus Security System, which provides an instant-ready system to secure the pistol



## Taurus

**Model:** Raging 44

**MAGNUM ULTRALITE**

**Website:** TaurusUSA.com

**MSRP:** NOT LISTED

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .44 MAG

**Capacity:** 6

**Barrel Length:** 2.4 inches

**Length:** NOT LISTED

**Weight:** 27 ounces

**Features:** Adjustable sights, and chambered in .44 MAG, revolver also features Taurus Security System, Titanium Blue finish, fiber optic front sight



## Taurus

**Model:** Raging 454 CASULL

**Website:** TaurusUSA.com

**MSRP:** NOT LISTED

**Action:** DA/SA

**Caliber:** .44 MAG

**Capacity:** 6

**Barrel Length:** 2.4 inches

**Length:** NOT LISTED

**Weight:** 27 ounces

**Features:** Adjustable sights, and chambered in .454 CASULL, revolver also features Taurus Security System, this revolver has a ported barrel to help with recoil control





# FULL-FRAME REVOLVERS

## Smith & Wesson



**Model:** 325 THUNDER RANCH  
**Website:** Smith-Wesson.com  
**MSRP:** \$1,329  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .45 ACP  
**Capacity:** 6  
**Barrel Length:** 4 inches  
**Length:** 9.4 inches  
**Weight:** 40 ounces

**Features:** Adjustable rear sight, gold bead "patridge" front sight, Scandium frame, stainless steel barrel and cylinder, Performance Center tuned action with trigger stop

## Smith & Wesson



**Model:** M 629  
**Website:** Smith-Wesson.com  
**MSRP:** \$1,329  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .45 ACP  
**Capacity:** 6  
**Barrel Length:** 2.5 inches  
**Length:** 7.6 inches  
**Weight:** 39 ounces

**Features:** Adjustable rear sight, Performance Center tuned action, unfluted cylinder, chambered for the 44 MAG, great power in a very small package.

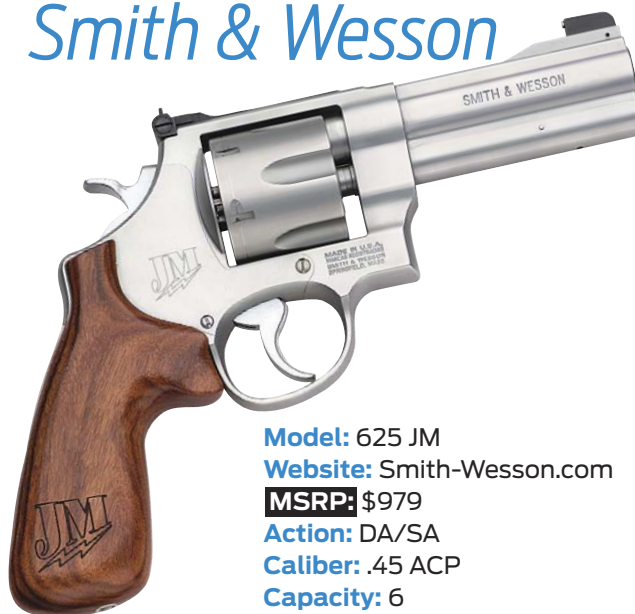
## Ruger



**Model:** SUPER REDHAWK ALASKAN  
**Website:** Ruger.com  
**MSRP:** \$1,119  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .44 MAG, 454 CASULL, 480 RUGER  
**Capacity:** 6  
**Barrel Length:** 2.5 inches  
**Length:** 7.62 inches  
**Weight:** 45.5 ounces

**Features:** Triple-locked cylinder provides solid lockup for the most powerful cartridges, dual chamberings, 44 MAG can fire 44 Spl, and 44 CASULL can fire 45 LONG COLT, comes with Hogue Monogrips for recoil absorption

## Smith & Wesson



**Model:** 625 JM  
**Website:** Smith-Wesson.com  
**MSRP:** \$979  
**Action:** DA/SA  
**Caliber:** .45 ACP  
**Capacity:** 6  
**Barrel Length:** 4 inches  
**Length:** 9.4 inches  
**Weight:** 40 ounces

**Features:** Adjustable rear sight, gold bead "patridge" front sight, custom wooden grips, tuned action, large exposed hammer

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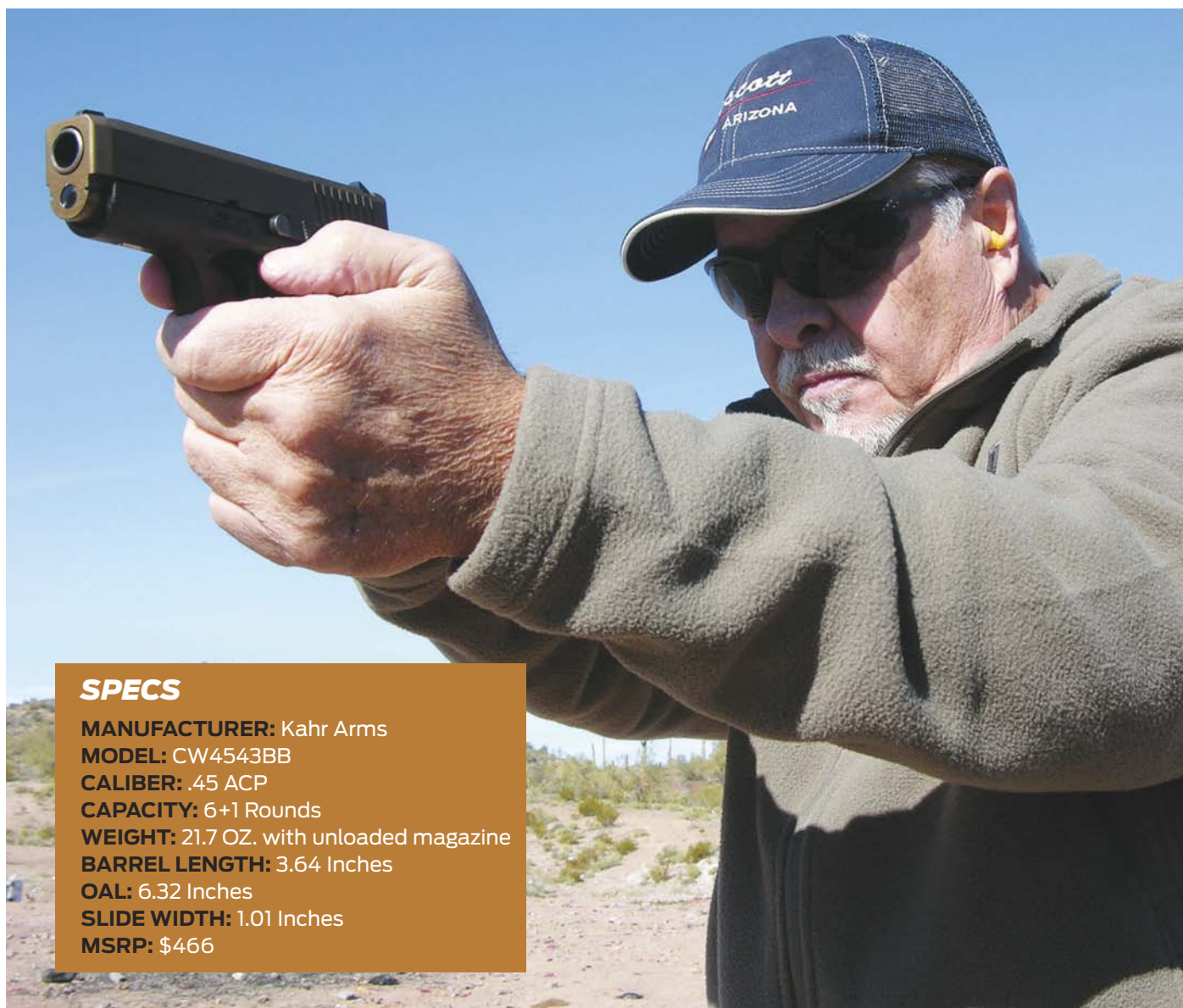
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# BRONZE BEAUTY

Kahr's CW45 Is a Topnotch, Affordable Handgun

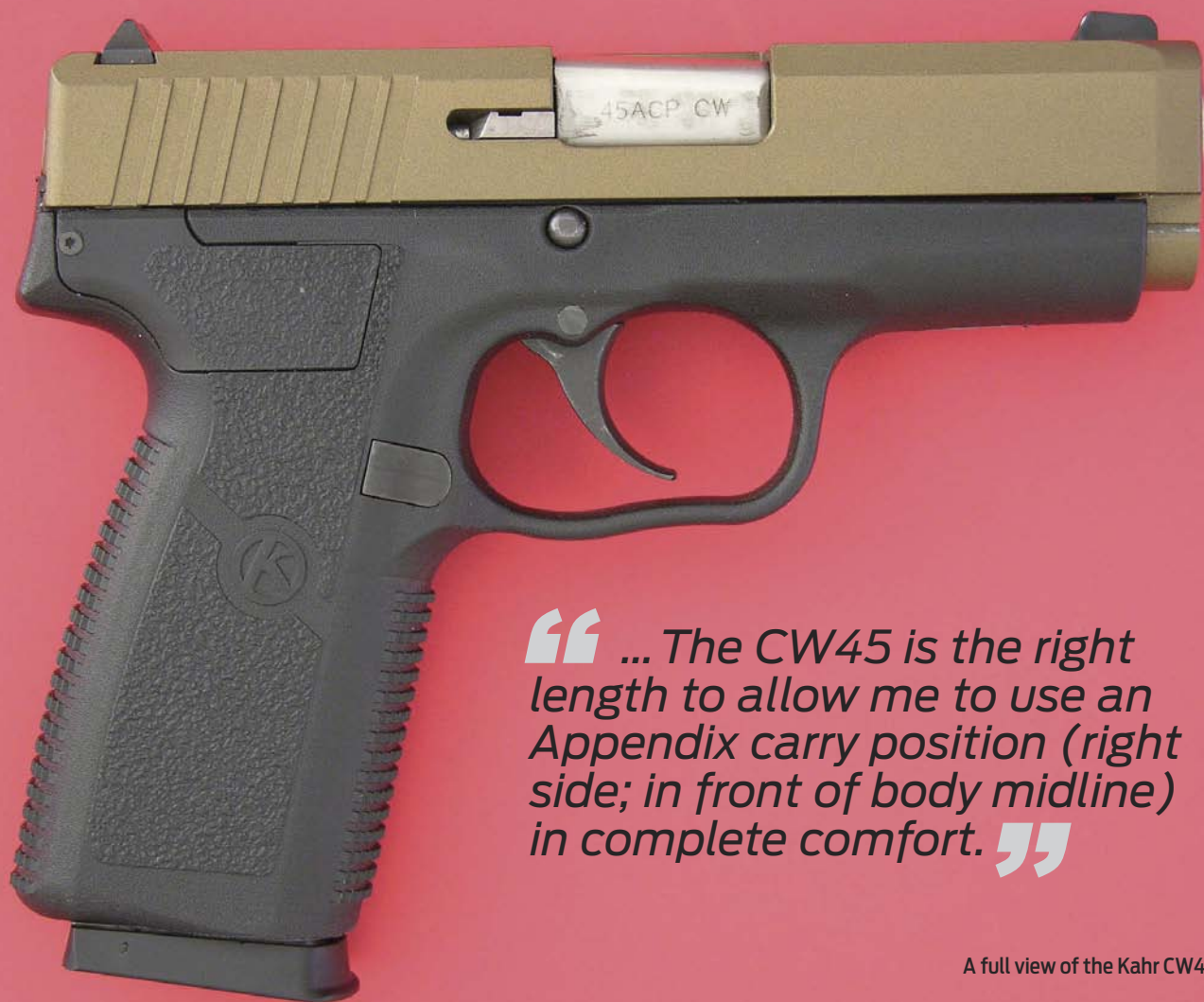
TEXT AND PHOTOS BY JERRY CATANIA



## SPECS

**MANUFACTURER:** Kahr Arms  
**MODEL:** CW4543BB  
**CALIBER:** .45 ACP  
**CAPACITY:** 6+1 Rounds  
**WEIGHT:** 21.7 OZ. with unloaded magazine  
**BARREL LENGTH:** 3.64 Inches  
**OAL:** 6.32 Inches  
**SLIDE WIDTH:** 1.01 Inches  
**MSRP:** \$466

PHOTO BY TKT



*“ ... The CW45 is the right length to allow me to use an Appendix carry position (right side; in front of body midline) in complete comfort. ”*

A full view of the Kahr CW45.

**W**hen I first held a Kahr P45 at Speedy Pawn in Peoria, AZ, I could not believe how perfect it felt in my hand. The price, however, was a little out of my budget. Still, the feel of that pistol haunted me.

A year later, Kahr came out with a less expensive version called the CW45. Utilizing the same frame as the more expensive P45 model, I knew I would have to have one sooner or later. Sooner came faster than later when Kahr came up with their unique “Burnt Bronze” finish for that model, and the deal was sealed for me.

Kahr Arms is now partnering with United Sporting Companies for an exclusive line of their most popular sized 9mm, .40 S&W and .45 ACP pistols offered with Cerakote’s sleek new Burnt Bronze finish on their stainless steel slides and attractive black appointments on the frames. The Burnt Bronze finish combines colors of a tactical understated earth tone with a beautiful rich bronze color. Kahr then com-

bines a black trigger and slide stop lever on their black polymer frame to complete a truly desirable appearance. I love it. Let’s look at it closer.

## FEATURES

The CW45 differs from the more expensive P45 in the following ways: The front sight is pinned instead of residing in a dovetail; the barrel is button rifled, instead of having polygonal rifling; the slide has less machining done to it; the CW series only come with one magazine, instead of three; the CW45 features the same outstanding DAO trigger and performance as its more expensive brothers, and finally, there is no external manually operated safety, no magazine safety, and no safety in the trigger.

Kahr offers a 9mm, .40 S&W, and .45 ACP models with the Burnt Bronze finish. The United Sporting Companies’ exclusive Burnt Bronze offering in .45 ACP is model number CW4543BB.





The CW45 in the Galco Stow-n-go IWB holster with Spyderco Kahr knife and Fenix 360 lumen flashlight.



Here, the CW45 is shown in a fanny pack, which is great for desert climates.



The CW45 with the loads that performed best for me.



The highly visible front sight, pinned in place.

In addition to the attractive Burnt Bronze slide with black appointments, this model features a 3.64-inch barrel with conventional rifling, and a 1-16.38 right-hand twist. Overall length is 6.32 inches, the height is 4.8 inches and the weight is 19.7 oz. with an additional 2 oz. for the magazine. Slide width is 1.01 inches and capacity is 6 + 1. It offers the same sights as the CW9 and CW40 (and all other Kahr pistols); that is, the sights on the CW45 are the "Von Stavenhagen" pattern, consisting of a square white "bar" for the rear sight, and a large white dot on the front sight. Excellent contrast and fast acquisition are the results, as you just "Dot the i", so to speak. Night sights are not offered as of this writing.

The MSRP on all three Burnt Bronze models is just \$466; and are being sold exclusively through United Sporting Companies: Ellett Brothers and Jerry's Sports Center locations. If my sample is typical, then

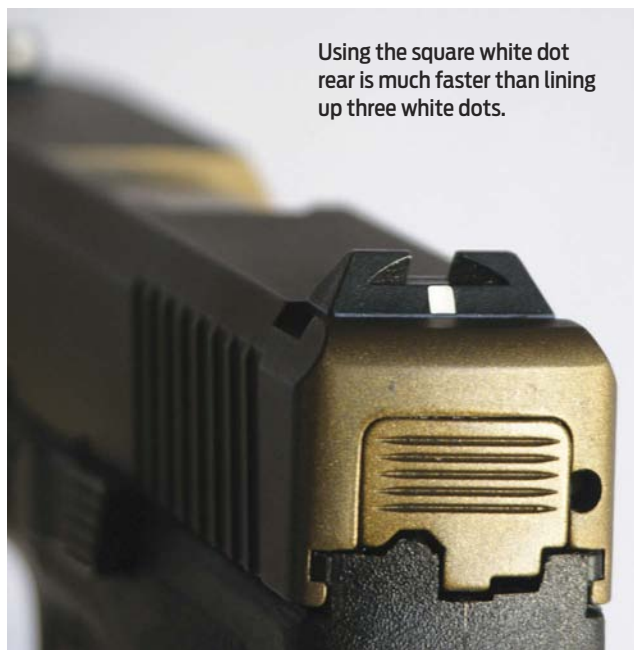
their performance is outstanding.

## HOW A KAHR FUNCTIONS

After inserting a loaded magazine into the gun and racking the slide, a live round is stripped from the magazine and moved into the firing chamber. However, the pistol is only partially cocked; the striker spring is partially tensioned and the trigger is fully forward. When racking the slide, the trigger does not move back as it does in most other DA/SA semi-auto pistols. As the trigger is pressed to the rear (pulled, in common jargon), the internal passive striker block is released and simultaneously the cocking cam pulls the striker back from its partially tensioned position to a fully cocked position under full spring tension. Completing the rearward pull of the trigger allows the cocking cam to release the striker, firing the live cartridge in the chamber. Extraction and ejection of the empty case follows, and a live round is stripped



The Kahr goes back together faster than it comes apart.



Using the square white dot rear is much faster than lining up three white dots.

## CHRONOGRAPH DATA

	LOAD	MUZZLE VELOCITY	MUZZLE ENERGY
FEDERAL HYDRA-SHOK	230 GR. JHP	808 FPS	337 Foot Pounds
FEDERAL AE*	230 GR. TMJ	753 FPS	288 Foot Pounds
DOUBLETAP AP	160 GR. TAC-XP (Man Load)	936 FPS	312 Foot Pounds
DOUBLETAP	160 GR. TAC-XP (+P)	1140 FPS	459 Foot Pounds
BUFFALO BORE	160 GR. TAC-XP (+P)	1203 FPS	513 Foot Pounds
BUFFALO BORE	185 GR. TAC-XP (+P)	1108 FPS	500 Foot Pounds

Legend: Tac-XP bullets are non-lead, all-copper hollow points. Velocity was measured eight feet from the muzzle and was the average of five or more shots. Elevation: 2,000 feet Temperature: 68 degrees F.

AE\* = American Eagle Brand, toxic-metal-free primers and total metal jacketed bullets (no airborne lead)

from the magazine by the energy of the recoil spring, making the Kahr ready to fire another shot.

Besides its great ergonomics, what really makes the Kahr CW45 (and every Kahr) so outstanding to shoot is its superb DA trigger pull. While other DA triggers like Sig's DAK and S&W's M&P's have excellent triggers, the Kahr is in a class by itself. Breaking at about seven pounds, with no stacking or over travel, it's a dream DA trigger and excellent accuracy can be obtained; as well as a level of carrying safety unique to DAO pistols. The pistol compares to the best DAO pulls that Smith and Wesson's Performance Center puts on their J-frames.

## SHOOTING THE CW45

I fired about 300 rounds of various brands and types of .45 ACP ammo, running the gamut in weights from 160 to 230 grains. I would like to report that the CW45 functioned and fed every round with

100% efficiency, but I can't do that 100%.

Clearly, though, the problems I had were limited to one load: DoubleTap's Bonded 185 grain JHP. Six failures to feed, and three failures to fire occurred only with this load; and I only had one 20-round box of it. I dunno.

However, all other brands, types (including DoubleTap's other loads), and weights functioned 100%, with three loads providing outstanding performance: Federal's 230 grain Hydra-Shok, DoubleTap's 160 grain All Copper TAC-XP, and Buffalo Bore's 160 grain TAC-XP (same bullet). These three loads were very accurate and shot to point of aim. B-29 targets at Combat distances were perforated in the right places. One gallon water jugs were fairly easy to hit out to 30 yards (and sometimes more). Best of all, they did not recoil as heavily as some of the other +P loads with heavier bullets. It helped that the sights on the CW45 were perfectly regulated out of the box.



“What really makes the Kahr CW45 (and every Kahr) so outstanding to shoot is its superb DA trigger pull.”



The CW has the same polished feed ramp as the more expensive Kahr handguns.



The proof is in the shooting. Using a Weaver stance, this targets is 10 yards off.

The rather sharp checkering on the CW45 didn't really bother me until I fired about 30 rounds or so. A little tape on the small finger of my shooting hand solved the problem for long shooting sessions.


### CONCEALED CARRY

Picking the right holster for your carry gun can be a chore; sometimes an expensive one. I have dozens of holsters in a box in my closet that never gets worn.

I really lucked out when picking a holster, and got it right on my first try. I picked the GALCO "Stow-N-Go" IWB holster and it was just right. It is a straight drop design; made of very soft material inside and out, yet has a stiff mouth to hold it open for easy re-holstering. It snaps on and off quickly and easily, and is just the right height to clear my belt and enable me to get a full grip on the CW45. The CW45 is the right length to allow me to use an Appendix carry position (right side; in front of body midline) in complete comfort. The Appendix carry is preferred over the behind the hip mode when seated in car or, say, in a restaurant. It is equally good when walking about and allows a fairly quick draw. Having the pistol in front gives you a little more awareness as well.

Sometimes I use a fanny pack; although since the pouch is in the front, I have no idea why it's called such a thing. In the hot climate of Phoenix, sometimes it's the most comfortable method to carry. If the pack allows you to carry your pistol at a 45 degree angle, it can be very fast indeed; especially with a DAO gun like the CW45. Even though legal in Arizona, I do not carry openly. The CW45 is also small enough and light enough to carry in your pocket; if you have them cut roomy enough. Always wear them in black, as it casts no shadows and hides the gun better from printing. By the way, there is a small — but noticeable — difference in the weight of the CW45 when carrying it full of the 160-grain loads compared to the 230-grain loads.

### FIRST RATE

That's my take on the CW45. Check one out; or in one of the other calibers if you prefer. The Burnt Bronze finish yields an extra bit of class to a carry gun that is already a top notch weapon. You really cannot go wrong with any Kahr pistol. 

*Jerry Catania is a veteran firearms writer who also writes for Gun World magazine.*

### SOURCES

**KAHR ARMS** - [Kahr.com](http://Kahr.com)

**GALCO GUNLEATHER** - [GalcoGunleather.com](http://GalcoGunleather.com)

**FEDERAL PREMIUM AMMUNITION** - [FederalPremium.com](http://FederalPremium.com)

**BUFFALO BORE** - [BuffaloBore.com](http://BuffaloBore.com)

**DOUBLETAP AMMUNITION** - [DoubleTapAmmo.net](http://DoubleTapAmmo.net)

## SERIOUS AMMO, SERIOUS FUN

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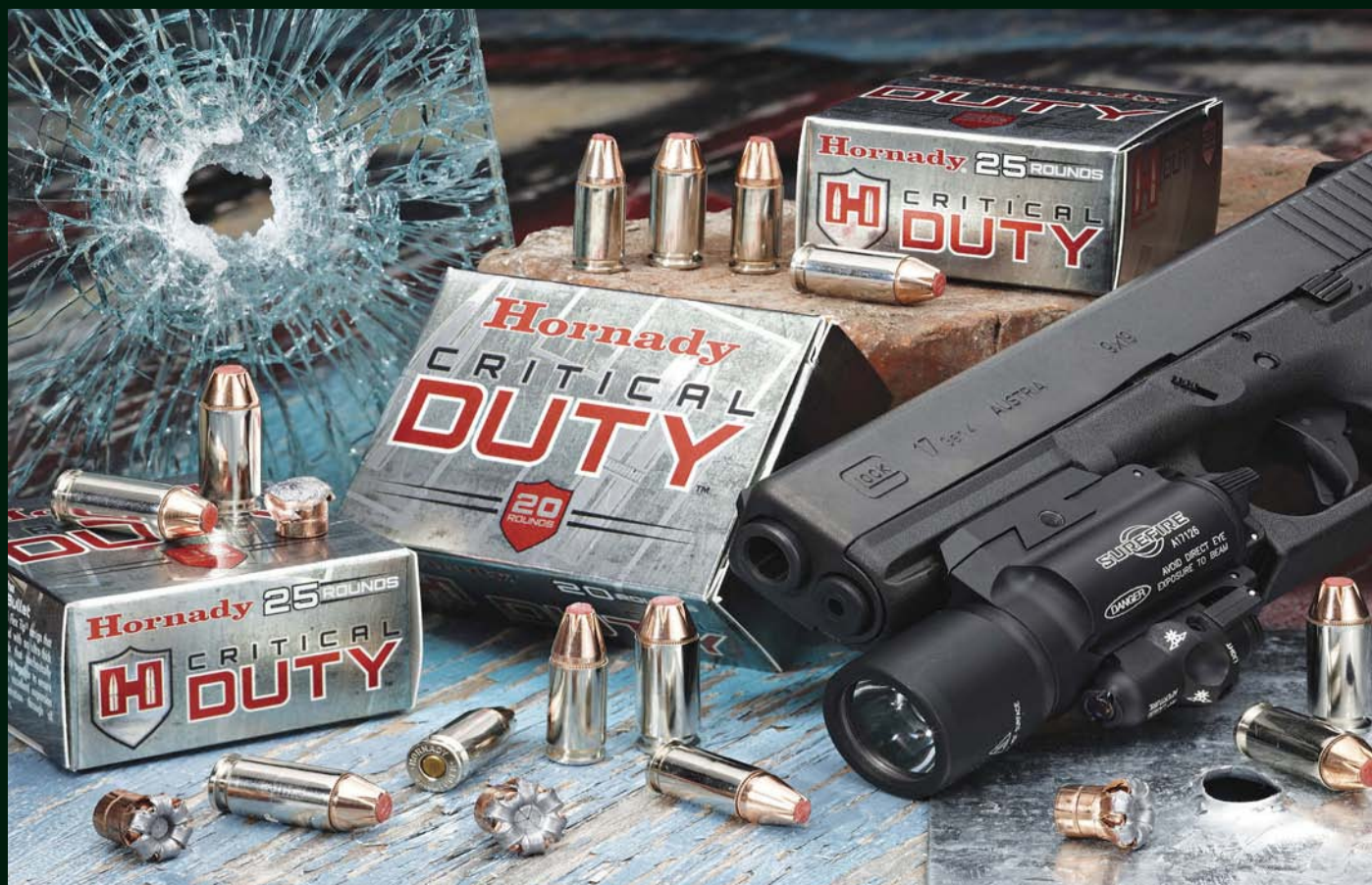


PHOTO BY HORNADY

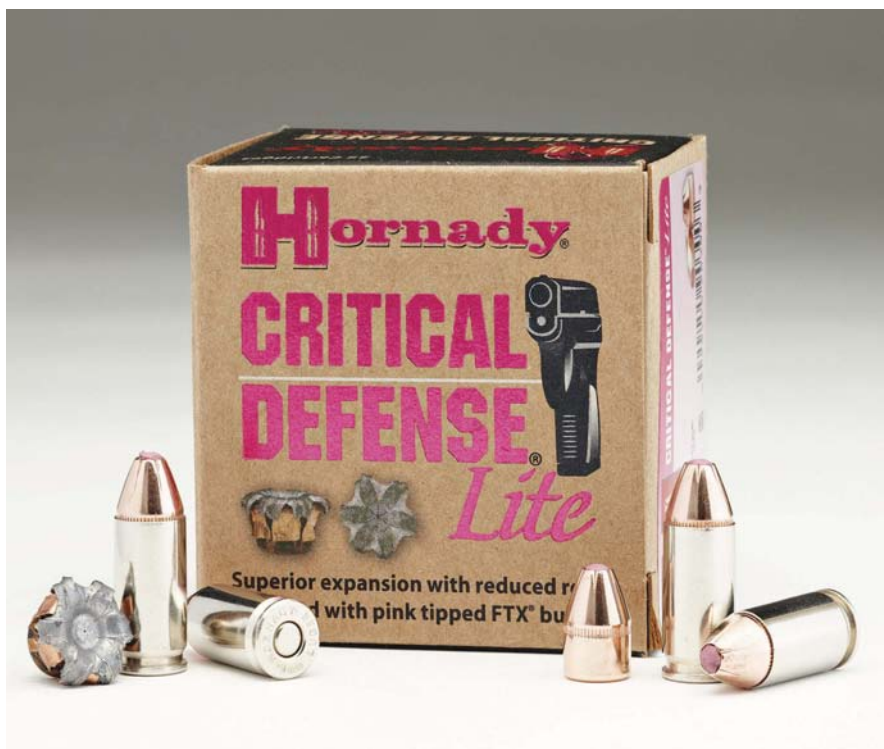
**T**he only thing better than collecting firearms is shooting them.

What makes handguns such a unique category is the various types of shooting sports available, from Bullseye, to silhouette, to IPSC, and IDPA. There's something for everyone, but in order to get the most out of the handgun, no matter what it's used for, the shooter

needs the right ammunition.

As fun as competitive shooting is, defensive use of the handgun is still probably the main reason people own a handgun, and manufacturers work hard to engineer their products for maximum effectiveness. In these pages you'll find the right load for your intended use.





## Hornady

**Caliber:** 9mm  
**Website:** [Hornady.com](http://Hornady.com)  
**Bullet Style:** FTX/JHP  
**Bullet Weight:** 100 grains  
**Brand:** Critical Defense Lite  
**Muzzle Velocity:** 1,125 fps  
**Designed for:** Home defense/tactical, lightweight concealed carry guns, portion of the proceeds goes to fund breast cancer research

## Federal Premium Ammunition

**Caliber:** Various  
**Website:** [FederalPremium.com](http://FederalPremium.com)  
**Bullet Style:** Round nose  
**Bullet Weight:** Varies by caliber  
**Brand:** Premium Personal Defense  
**Muzzle Velocity:** Varies by caliber  
**Designed for:** This personal defensive ammunition is designed to expand, but not overpenetrate. Bullet nose profile is similar to an FMJ, but has a flat point for good expansion.





## Winchester

**Caliber:** .45 ACP PDX1 Defender

**Website:** Winchester.com

**Bullet Style:** JHP

**Bullet Weight:** 230 grain

**Brand:** PDX1 Defender

**Muzzle Velocity:** Varies by caliber

**Designed for:** Designed for CCW holders to provide similar ballistics out of the shorter barrels that concealable handguns usually have

## Remington Ultimate Defense Compact

**Caliber:** Various

**Website:** Remington.com

**Bullet Style:** Various

**Bullet Weight:** Varies by caliber

**Brand:** Critical Defense

**Muzzle Velocity:** Varies by caliber

**Designed for:** Designed for CCW holders to provide similar ballistics out of the shorter barrels that concealable handguns usually have



## Black Hills

**Caliber:** .357 Magnum

**Website:** Black-Hills.com

**Bullet Style:** JHP

**Bullet Weight:** 125 grains

**Brand:** Black Hills

**Muzzle Velocity:** 1,500 fps

**Designed for:** Home defense/hunting



## Barnes



**Caliber:** 45 Auto +P

**Website:** Barnesbullets.com

**Bullet Style:** JHP

**Bullet Weight:** 185 grain

**Brand:** TAC-XPB

**Muzzle Velocity:** 1000 fps

**Designed for:** Great round for personal defense, all-copper bullets provide for good expansion and penetration **CC**





## The Elite

Scott Reitz, a 30-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police department, spent 10 years in their "D" platoon (SWAT). From there, he was in charge of advanced training for specialized units such as gangs, the anti-terrorist division, S.I.S. and others.

He didn't get to these places by chance. Hard work, dedication and talent delivered him.

When you train, commit yourself to excellence. Like Scott Reitz.

PHOTO BY GUS ALONZO

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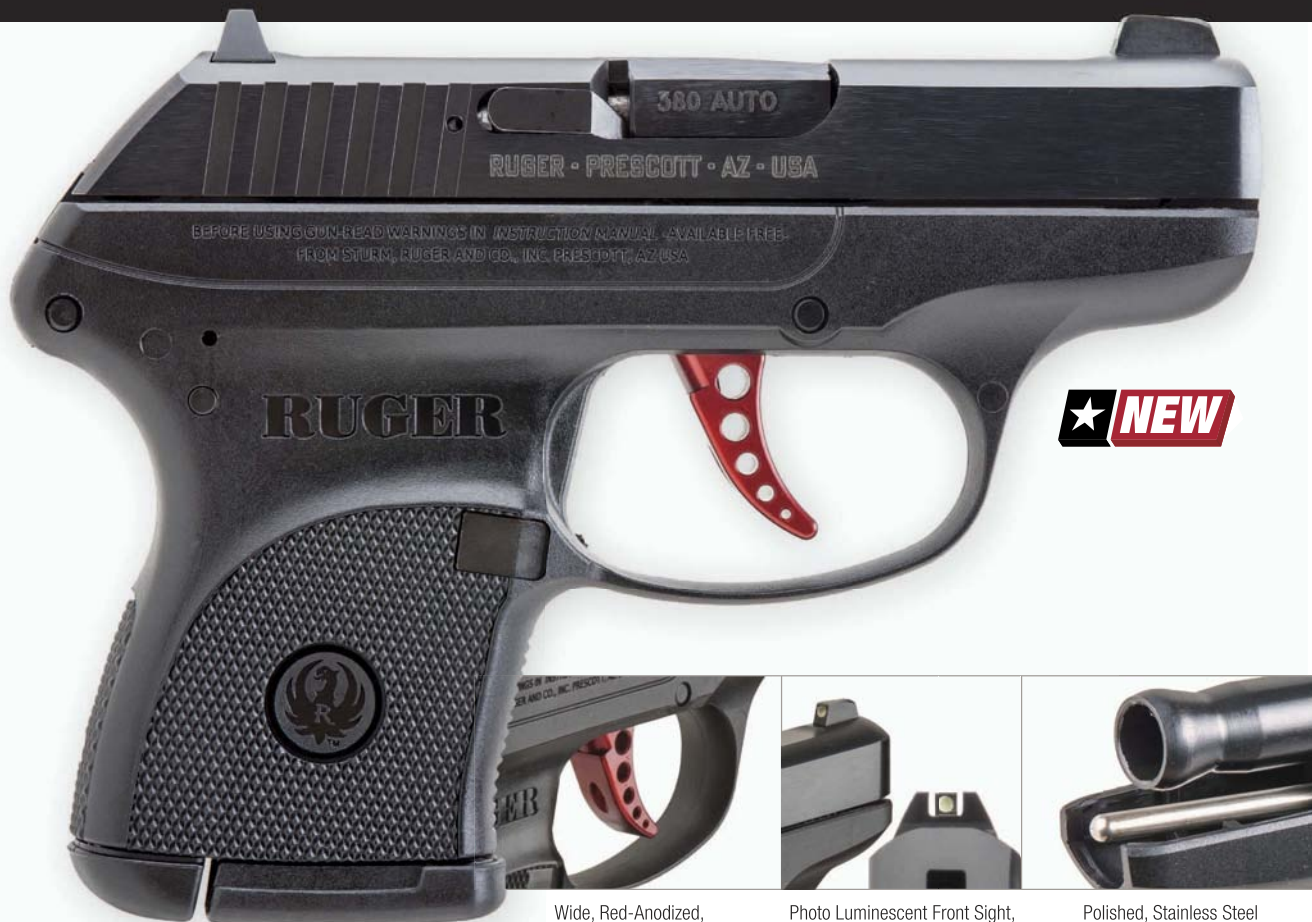


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